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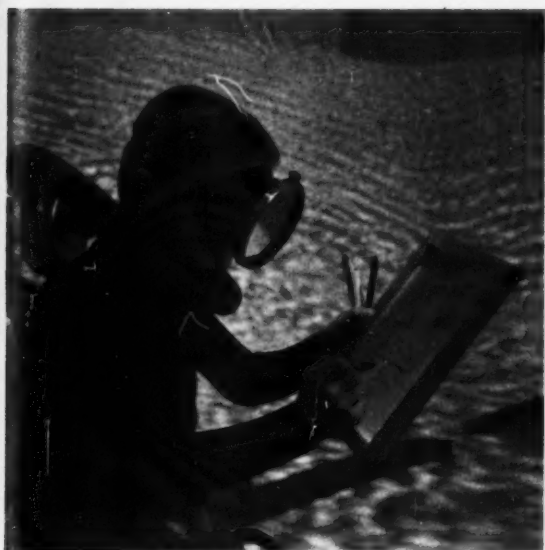
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ART AND MUSIC

# DIVER

DEVOTED TO THE UNDERWATER WORLD

FEBRUARY 1957



*In this issue*

**Young Man with a Lung**

**Diver Deep Freeze**

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the SPEARFISHERMAN  
mask



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# SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

*Devoted to the Underwater World*

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**CHUCK BLAKESLEE**

Advertising Manager

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**FEBRUARY COVER**—Underwater antics performed by "Young Man with a Lung" (Page 19) is Santa Monica, California, diver Pat Chase. Photography by Dan Tompkins.

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Number 2

February, 1957

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SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

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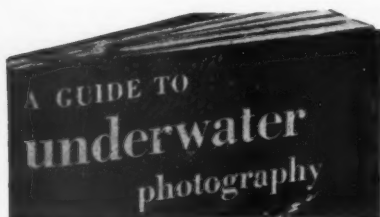


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## Letters



... Bill Whaley (left) and Doug Hinton of the Trenton Skin Diving Club are shown prior to entering the water in a search for a French gunboat off Main Duck Island which is located in the eastern end of Lake Ontario, very close to the international boundary. According to local fishermen, whose ancestors had fished these waters before them, the ship had gone down in a storm with most hands aboard. It was reputed to have been carrying a payroll to French troops garrisoned at Niagara Falls. Our search was hampered by poor visibility resulting from a recent storm. However, we had an enjoyable outing and found two wrecked fishing boats, if not our "treasure galleon." I did, however, succeed in locating a French gunboat in Deadman Bay, Kingston, Ontario, where it was scuttled in accordance with the Rush-Bagot Agreement around 1832 or hereabouts. I am very anxious to start a diving club in this area as I am the only lung diver within a one hundred mile radius to my knowledge. I would therefore like to alert, through your letter column if possible, any divers in the Chicoutimi or Quebec City area who would care to correspond with me. Also anyone in the Maritimes who can find the time, as I make trips to the East Coast whenever possible.

F. O. Doug Hinton  
Officers Mess  
RCAF Stn. Bagotville  
Quebec, Canada

... To those lucky enough to spend some time spearfishing in the West Indies, where high pooped Spanish treasure galleons once plowed through the Caribbean Sea lanes, come the real meaning of the sport.

In these islands that are fanned by the trade winds one finds a paradise of perfect weather and clear, warm water with an abundance of fish of all sizes and colors.

Stretching between Trinidad and the Bahamas the West Indies in recent years have become a haven for tourists and vacationists.

Living expenses are very reasonable and transportation both by boat and plane are available. More and more visitors explore these Caribbean islands for the pleasures of their gleaming beaches, the undersea life of clear coastal waters and superb game fishing.

In the eleven years I lived in these islands Barbados (outrider of the Antilles) was my home. Countless hours of exploring the coral reefs and diving in the translucent lagoons and bays have left me with a love of the "underwater world" and makes me appreciate the fine work that Skin Diver magazine is doing to bring this rare sport to people throughout the world.

Norman O. Skeete  
Burbank, Calif.

"One of the finest, most comprehensive coverages of underwater adventure... every skin diver should add a copy to his library." — Chuck Blakeslee, Skin Diver magazine

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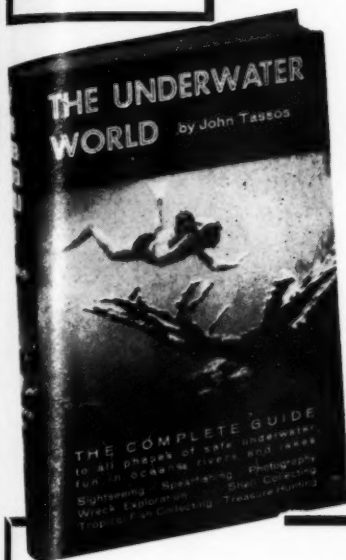
*Now a man who made his living beneath the sea offers you his*

## COMPLETE "HOW TO" BOOK ON SKIN DIVING

John Tassos spent years hunting treasure in Bahaman waters . . . spearfishing off the Atlantic coast . . . photographing marine life in the Caribbean. And now he's put all his collected techniques, practical know-how and dramatic experiences into this 242-page, richly-illustrated book . . .

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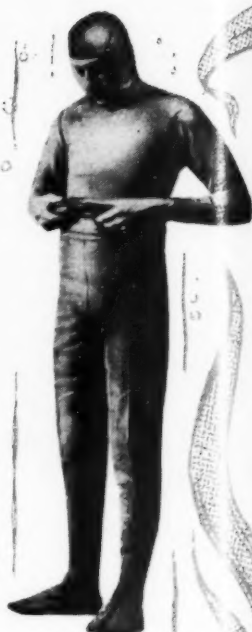
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Street & No.....

City & State.....



Compressed Air Stations—a national listing to serve the local and traveling diver. Advertising rate is \$30 for 6 ads taken on a semi-annual basis—Jan. thru June and July thru Dec. Payment must accompany copy. Send all material to Compressed Air Stations, c/o Skin Diver, Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.

All prices are for 70 cubic foot cylinders. Listed Alphabetically by States and Cities.

## ARIZONA

**SPORTS SPOT**  
4226 E. Indian School Road  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Hours: 9-6 \$1.25

## CALIFORNIA

**SUNLAND SPORTS LODGE**  
332 North Canon Drive  
Beverly Hills, California  
Hours: 10-7 Mon.-Fri. 10-9 \$1.25

**AL'S SPORTING GOODS**  
Highway One at Pier  
Cayucas, California. Phone 4121  
7-9 Sat.-Sun. Hol. \$1.50; weekdays \$1.25

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SKIN DIVERS SUPPLY**  
(Located at Compton Hardware Co.)  
226 E. Compton Blvd., Compton, Calif.  
Hours: 8:30-5:30, Fri. Till 9 \$1.25

**KELPSUIT**  
10927 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Inglewood, Calif. OR. 4-1040  
Hours: 8 to 8, Heavenly Air \$1.25

**PARKER BOATS & MOTORS**  
680 North Coast Blvd. (Hwy. 101)  
Laguna Beach, Calif.  
Hours: 8-5 7 days a week \$1.50

**DIVE 'N' SURF**  
731 Pearl Street  
La Jolla, California  
Hours: 9-6 \$1.25

**PENGUIN, INC.**  
6162 Atlantic Ave.  
Long Beach, California  
Hours: 9-7 \$1.25

**UNDERWATER SPORTS SHOP**  
5914 E. 2nd Street  
Long Beach, California  
Hours: 9:30-6:00, Open 7 days \$1.25

**AQUA-DIVERS**  
1901 Pac. Cst. Hwy. (Along the P.V. Hills)  
Lomita, California, DA. 6-6663  
Hours: 9-9, 7 days a week \$1.25

**LYLE A. HOSKIN & SON**  
Water Sports Ept. Co., Inc.  
1220 West. Coast Hwy.  
Newport Beach, Calif. 9-6 \$1.50

**SPORTLAND**  
406 South Lake Avenue  
Pasadena, California. Certified Air  
9-5:30 Mon.-Thurs.; Fri. 9-9:30

**DIVE 'N' SURF**  
223 Hermosa Avenue  
Redondo Beach, California  
Hours: 9-6 \$1.25

**MEL'S AQUA SHOP**  
1911 So. Catalina Ave.  
Redondo Beach, California  
Hours: 9:30-6:00 \$1.25

**STAN SHELLEY**  
1649 Willowhurst Ave.  
San Jose, California  
All hours. \$1.50

**VALLEY SKIN DIVER**  
15206 Ventura Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, Calif.  
Hours: 10-6:30 70 cu. ft. \$1.25

**SAN DIEGO DIVERS SUPPLY, INC.**  
4042 Midway Drive  
San Diego 10, California  
Hours: 9-8, 7 days a week Certified Air \$1.25

## TEMPLE SPORTING GOODS

9514 East Los Tunas (Certified Air)  
Temple City, Calif. ATlantic 6-3308  
Hrs: 9-6—9-9 on Mon. & Fri.

**WATER GILL PRODUCTS**  
2547 Lincoln Blvd., EXmont 1-1210  
Venice, California 70 cu. ft. \$1.25  
Week 9-5 & 6-9; Sat.-Sun. 9-6 & 10-6

## FLORIDA

**SEAHORSE MOTEL**  
Marathon, Florida. \$1.50  
24 hour service

**UNDERWATER SPORTS, INC., & MAKO MFG. CO.**  
2219 Biscayne Blvd.  
Miami, Florida \$1.25

**PALM BEACH DIVERS SUPPLY**  
623 So. Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
\$1.50

## ILLINOIS

**HOBBY DEN**  
8546 S. Racine Ave.  
Chicago 20, Illinois  
Hours: 9-6; Sun. 8-11 a.m. \$2.00

**SATNESS FROGMAN SUPPLIES**  
3722 N. Cicero Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. \$1.75  
Call PA-5-1114

**ED. THORNE'S HARDWARE**  
7928 N. 2nd St.  
Rockford, Ill. \$1.50  
Hrs. 8-8 Sat. 8-6 Sun. 8-12:30

## MICHIGAN

**A. J. SPORTSMEN SHOP**  
18219 W. Seven Mile, KE. 4-2299  
Detroit 19, Michigan  
Hours: 3-9 p.m. \$1.50

**ST. CLAIR DIVERS CO.**  
24400 E. Jefferson, Hrs.: 12-9 p.m.  
St. Clair Shores, Mich. PR. 7-9852 \$1.50  
(At Jefferson Bch. Marina, Lake St. Clair)

## MINNESOTA

**JACK THE FROGMAN CO.**  
5621 Harriet Ave. So. Minneapolis  
Air filtered four times  
24 hour service \$1.50

## NEW JERSEY

**UNDERWATER SPORTS OF N. J.**  
A complete line for skin divers  
426 Washington St.  
Orange, N. J. Hrs. 11-11 \$1.50

## NEW YORK

**CENTRAL SKIN DIVERS**  
160-09 Jamaica Ave.  
Jamaica, New York  
Tues.-Wed.-Thurs. till 7, Mon. & Fri., 10, Sat. 8  
**GROBY'S LUGGAGE & SPORT SHOP**  
342 South Salina Street  
Syracuse, New York Per tank 10c per 100-lbs.  
Daily 9:30 to 5:30; plus Mon. & Fri. to 9 p.m.

## TEXAS

**WATER SPORTS SUPPLY**  
4350 W. University Blvd.  
Dallas, Tex. FL. 7-3184  
Hrs. 8-6 10c per 100 lbs.

## Club Emblems Needed

"Skin Diver" is presently collecting emblems from underwater clubs and associations around the world. We would like to thank the many clubs that have already submitted their patch to us. Several dozen of these emblems mounted on a panel will be photographed in full color and placed on the "Skin Diver" cover sometime in the near future.

Our display of club shields will be exhibited at skin diving and general public gatherings, sports shows, and personality T.V. shows. Your club will certainly want to be represented on this display board and we urge club secretaries to send your emblem promptly.

## Join the Florida Underwater Crusade

In an effort to aid spearfishing enthusiasts in the State of Florida with their fight to stay in the water and pursue their favorite sport a fund is being created to help them financially. Underwater Sports, Inc., 2219 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida, is offering several valuable awards to persons contributing to the fund. A \$1.00 contribution gives you the opportunity to win a complete Aqu Lung; 50c, a Deluxe Arbaletes; and 25c, a pair of Cressi fins and a Squal mask. Send as much money as you wish and you will receive a ticket with your number on it . . . the ticket stub, containing your number, name and address, will be retained until the closing of the fund and the winners announced.

Send contributions to Underwater Sports, Inc., 2219 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

**C. & M. CARON**  
Main Street  
Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands  
Hours: 8:30-6 \$2.00

## WASHINGTON

**PUGET SOUND DIVERS COMPANY**  
2520 Westlake N. - AL. 8555  
Seattle 9, Washington  
Hours: 8-5:30 - Emergency SU 0449  
**SEATTLE SKIN DIVING SUPPLIES**  
4853 Calif. Avenue  
Seattle, Washington  
24 hours service Ph. AV. 5811 \$1.50

## WISCONSIN

**CUDAHY AUTO PARTS CO.**  
4186 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.  
Cudahy, Wisconsin.

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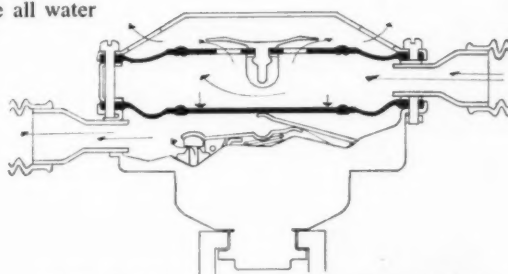
**DACOR is the World's First and Only Double Diaphragm Two Stage Regulator, assuring Double Performance and Safety to the Diver.**

DACOR offers the greatest advancements in Underwater Breathing Units. **EASIER BREATHING.** Mouthpiece, Exhale Hose, and Exhaust Chamber only can be flooded and you can remove all water with a single exhalation. "NO ROLLING" NECESSARY.

**NOTE these other Exclusive DACOR Features:**

- **TWO STAGE REGULATOR** reduces air pressure twice, assuring uniform breathing regardless of tank pressure.
- **DACOR Design** assures greater uniformity of breathing regardless of the diver's position in the water.
- The Diaphragm which operates the air demand valve is not exposed to the water surrounding it. Therefore it is not subjected to any movement except that caused by the normal breathing cycle.
- If either one of the diaphragms should become damaged or inoperative, the regulator will continue to function efficiently assuring double safety to the user.
- The first Manufacturer to incorporate these important features in the Mouthpiece as standard equipment:

- 1 A design to fit the natural shape of the lips and mouth, reducing muscle fatigue.
- 2 The Valve Chamber is set below center to eliminate interference with the face mask and serve as a water and saliva trap.
- 3 Non-Return Valves, fully encased in Nylon housings, assure unrestricted operation and prevent water from entering intake hose.



Double Diaphragm — Double Performance and Safety

**PRICES:**

Complete Lung with Standard Valve... \$149.50  
Complete Lung with Reserve Valve... 164.50  
Regulator Complete..... 82.50

# DACOR DIVING LUNG

**DACOR CORPORATION**

P. O. Box, 551 • Evanston, Illinois



# BIG ITEM...

Let's face it. For the SCUBA diver, *safety is the big item*. That's the reason that Voit waited more than a decade to introduce its own lung. Even though Voit was the originator of skin diving equipment and the long established leading name, we took our time in examining and testing dozens of diving units of all kinds, to be sure that we would offer the very best. Some were good. Some were downright dangerous. Most of them had something to offer.

But, how about *complete dependability*?

Last year, Voit introduced its own lung. This is what it offered:

- The proven Cousteau-Gagnan process
- Highest quality workmanship, materials and service
- 10 years use by experts all over the world, without mechanical failure
- U.S. Navy approved
- Competitive pricing
- Backed by a national firm—Voit—the most respected name in the business, with sales and warehouse facilities in the East, Mid-West and West.

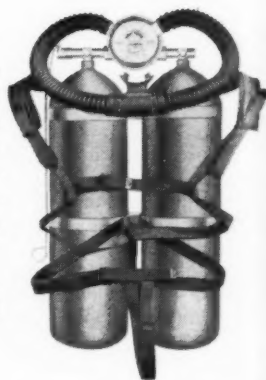
Yes, we waited a decade. But, we've been more than pleased with the choice you helped us make and the acceptance you've given it. Though the Voit Lung has many selling features, they add up to one thing... *safety*.

**THAT'S THE BIG ITEM...**



Voit Lung components may be purchased separately or as a complete unit. Single and Twin tanks. Positive and Constant reserve valves. Single Stage or Two Stage regulators.

Complete Units from . . .  
\$130.00



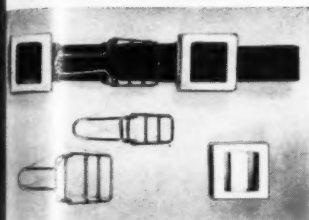
*America's Finest Swim  
Equipment by*

**VOIT®**

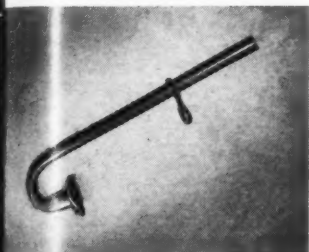
New York 11 • Danville, Ill. • Los Angeles 11



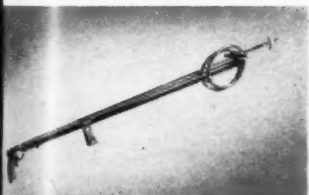
PLY-A-BEL DRY SUITS



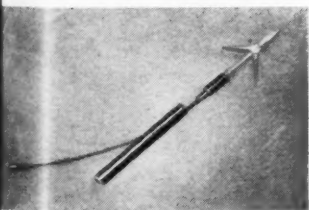
WEIGHTS & BELT



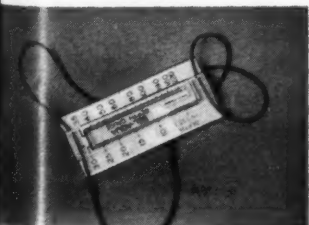
BEL-AQUA SNORKEL



HAMMERHEAD GUN



PILEDRIIVER



DEPTH GAUGE

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

ANNOUNCING **BEL-AQUA'S**

# PLY-A-FOAM

A TOUGHER, WARMER,  
BETTER **WET SUIT!**

Bel-Aqua PLY-A-FOAM is foam neoprene, reinforced with a tough outer skin of our famous PLY-A-BEL. This revolutionary new material gives wet suits the toughness, long life and durability of Bel-Aqua dry suits. NO MORE RIPS.

PLY-A-FOAM is warmer—no water absorption. No zippers needed—no cold water shock. Dries instantly. Both kits and ready-made suits available in limited quantities. Initial demand is exceeding production. Sold thru dealers everywhere. Write for details.



PLY-A-BEL



FOAM NEOPRENE

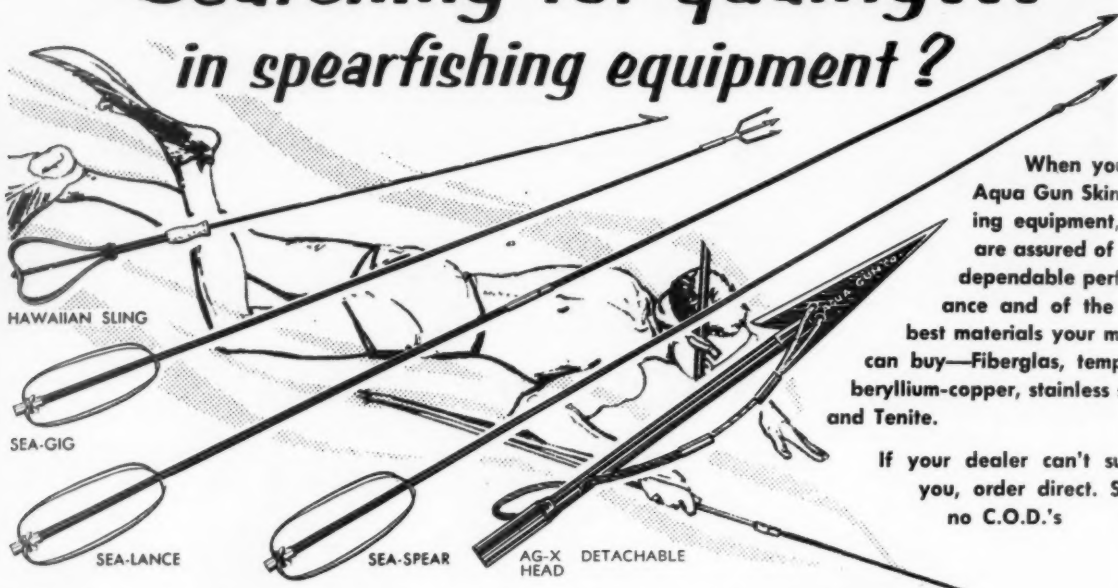
PLY-A-BEL — The armor plate of rubber suits.

BUILT TO LAST. Economy thru safety and performance.

**BEL-AQUA**

3720 WEST 54TH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

# Searching for quality... in spearfishing equipment?



When you use Aqua Gun Skin diving equipment, you are assured of safe, dependable performance and of the very best materials your money can buy—Fiberglass, tempered beryllium-copper, stainless steel, and Tenite.

If your dealer can't supply you, order direct. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s

**HAWAIIAN SLING**  
The original top-quality sling. Powerful and accurate. \$3.95

**SEA-GIG**  
Ideal short-range fiberglass spear. 4 ft. \$7.95

**SEA-SPEAR**  
Fast, powerful long-range fiberglass spear. 6 ft. AG-X Head \$9.95

**SEA-LANCE**  
Deluxe 2-piece fiberglass hand spear with lock joint. 7' 6" AG-X Head \$14.95

**AG-X DETACHABLE HEAD**  
Flat tapered blade of rustproof tempered beryllium-copper. Adaptor included to fit any spear. \$3.95

**DEALER AND JOBBER  
INQUIRIES INVITED**

**Aqua Gun**  
COMPANY

1121 North Broadway, Yonkers 3, N. Y.



## Letters

... Diving in the East is mighty rough this time of year. The water is generally cloudy and cold, but there are plenty of fish to be had. In two years of diving, I have seen only two other groups of spearfishermen. Finding a diving partner is often very tough, so going it alone is a pretty regular experience.

Large rock formations on the North Shore and in the Montauk and Orient vicinity seem to afford the best hunting. Others find that pilings and abandoned docks are equally as good, particularly at high tide. In cloudy conditions in the Sound, a short and light gun is preferred, since maneuverability is a big help in the very common "from-the-hip" situations; both the hunter and the hunted are surprised.

W. H. Fields  
P.O. Box S  
Port Jefferson  
L.I., N.Y.

... I am wondering if you could help me. I am a member of the Dundee Sub Aqua Club and I would like a pen-pal. It must be a male between the age of 20 to 23. He must belong to an underwater club some place in America. I have read some of the Skin Diver magazines and I have enjoyed every one I have read.

Neil A. MacLeod  
23, Clive Road  
Downfield, Dundee, Scotland

... I am writing this letter in the hopes that perhaps somebody will come to my aid. I am engaged in writing a book and would like to know if there are any divers who would care to send me some information or pictures. If you have any ideas on improving current gear or any neat tricks that save time or effort or even an interesting experience, it would be greatly appreciated. It is understood, or course, that all material is conveying rights to print same.

This is to be a book primarily on cold water diving, so anything on rubber suits and other cold water gear will be especially appreciated.

Even a post card will help. I will try to send a copy of the book to everyone whose material I use and any material used will have full credit given. So please send your brain storms to Phil Nuytten, c/o Cold Water Diving, 1973 Robson St., Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Vancouver Skin Divers Club  
Phil Nuytten

... We would like to know of any person or persons who would be interested in helping a group of high school seniors who are novice divers in starting a skin diving club. We have made some headway, but need someone with experience. If anyone would be interested, please contact John Berrell, 187 Booth St., Hempstead, N.Y.

John Burrell  
Hempstead, N.Y.



**Ahooy!**

With a flip of my fins

And my snorkel clear

I surfaced safely

And am finally here

My Parents, Marilyn and Ed White  
call me

**LYNNETTE**

I weighed **71 lbs. 130z.**

I arrived **7:36 AM Aug 23 1956**

... Thought the readers of "Skin Diver" would enjoy the announcement we had made for our first born.

With the wife and I both interested in water sports and myself an avid Skin Diver ... what more would you expect!!

Marilyn & Ed White  
812 E. 130th Street  
Hawthorne, California

(Here's a real swell announcement for all you prolific divers ... maybe the Whites' will take orders for the above. ED.)

**SKIN DIVER—February, 1957**

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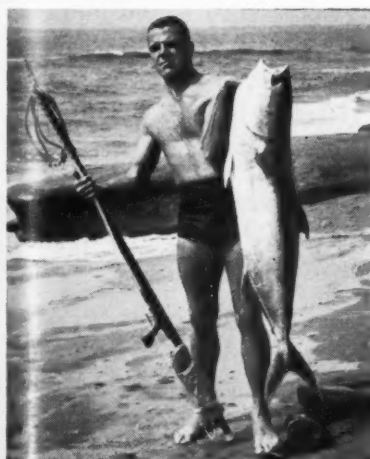
y, 1957



DR. PAT BLASDALE—Eye specialist who performed the delicate eye transplant on bat rays in the Marineland tank.



ZALE PERRY & PARRY BIVENS—Motion picture and TV stars. Zale is holder of the official women's deep dive record. Parry is President of Scientific Underwater Research Enterprises, underwater still and motion picture cameraman.



AL LARSON—Addicts Club of San Diego. World's record holder: three classes, white sea bass, yellow-tail, blue fin tuna.

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

# DIVE N' SURF INC.

223 Hermosa Ave.  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
FR. 9-1473

731 Pearl St.  
La Jolla, Calif.  
GL. 4-0544

The 1957 Dive N' Surf exposure suits, at last, after years of research, are the greatest single improvement ever made in exposure suits. Yet this new process reduces our labor costs and this allows us to supply you at a new low cost: (finished suits, not kits) . . .

All suits on display at both locations. Remember, these suits are backed by an unconditional **money back** guarantee if not completely satisfied. The same high quality goes into each new suit that has always been in each suit sold in the past. All suits tailor made to fit the individual customer. Also, come in, or write for details on the all new "Ice Breaker" suits for extremely cold waters.

THE SKIN DIVER REGULAR.....\$31.95  
THE SCUBA DIVER HEAVY DUTY.....\$39.95  
THE PROFESSIONAL DOUBLE DUTY.....\$46.95

(Used by divers on the Andrea Doria,  
220 feet down—46° water)

New methods of production cut the price on still another suit accessory—weight belts. A 9 lb. weight belt with the best quick release ever engineered.....\$7.75

Free samples, details and price lists on all new suits available by writing to the Redondo location.

*Pictured are a few of the many professional and amateur divers who choose Dive N' Surf suits for the maximum warmth and freedom for every use.*



BEV MORGAN—Author of "Diving with Safety", former Director of Los Angeles County Diving Instructor Training.

# flipper me splash



## THE AQUALUNG CENTER OF THE EAST COAST!

### A RICHARD'S EXCLUSIVE!

### PURGING TUBE KIT

Here's a must for all dry suit owners, designed by Richards for the development of skin diving! Attach Purging Tube to your chest and exhale all air from the suit before diving . . . pre-tests creases, eliminates extra weights and pre-tests leaks. Suit can also be inflated in water for buoyancy as life preserver.

**\$295**

Complete Kit  
Can be bought  
no where else.  
Only at  
Richard's!

THE PURGING TUBE IS NOW BUILT IN ON ALL RICHARD'S DRY SUITS—AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

### CYCLOPS MASK

**\$695**

Only

The mask corrects for average nearsightedness. No need for elaborate or makeshift glass holders.



### SPECIAL! SPECIAL! SPECIAL!

Have your Aqua-Lung Regulator overhauled, cleaned and checked.

1 WEEK SERVICE—JAN., FEB., MARCH

**\$500**

plus  
parts

AIR STATION OPEN 'TIL 10 P.M. DAILY . . .  
**RICHARDS AQUALUNG CENTER** 233 WEST 42nd STREET,  
NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

Counselors and outfitters for world-wide underseas expeditions.

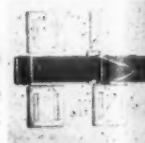
Just 25c includes your name on our Permanent Club list. You receive, periodically, FREE, all latest French, English, Italian and domestic catalogs that include cameras, masks, fins, snorkels, etc., and our monthly specials.

Richard's tests and checks all equipment under actual oceanic conditions. One Year Guarantee. We are the ONLY authorized Aqualung repair depot in the country. All items shipped postpaid.

### NEW!

### WEIGHT BELTS

Here's a new 2" weight belt with a quick release, stainless, safety buckle.



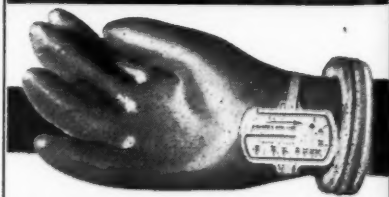
**WEBBING — \$2.95**

**WEIGHT — 2 lb. ea. — \$1.95**



### ITALIAN MARE'S SNORKEL

Mouthpiece of pure live gum rubber. Another special from **\$195** Richard's.



**RUBBER GLOVES . . . \$2.95**

**WRIST SEALS . . . \$5.95**

**120 Ft. DEPTH**

**GAUGE . . . \$1.25**  
**VALUE \$10.15**

All For  
**\$595**

# Healthways **SUITS** the skin diver!

FIRST IN WATER SPORTS!

...With the world's finest most complete line of rubber underwater exposure suits... for year 'round skin diving, sports diving, military and commercial use! Each suit is the finest of its type ever put on the market... result of years of development and testing under most rugged conditions in actual use!



## RUBBER SUITS "DRY TYPE"

**Carib Professional Front Entry Full Length Suit** (includes can of HEALTHWAYS rubber dust) made of 2-ply laminated pure gum rubber with air cured seams in HEALTHWAYS handsome new Carib Blue... inside ply is light blue. Comfortable and form fitting... yet allows room for necessary heavy underclothing. For the diver who prefers a gum rubber dry type suit that really stays dry, the Carib is the answer. Cat. No. 1713-Small, 1714-Medium, 1715-Large (Retail \$39.95)

**Carib Skin Diving and Water Ski Shirt** keeps vital upper parts of the body dry and helps maintain normal body temperature. Made of 2-ply laminated rubber as Carib suit. Form fitting and comfortable. Can be worn with underclothing if desired. Complete freedom of movement. A natural for water skiers, body surfers, skin divers. Cat. No. 1716-Small, 1717-Medium, 1718-Large (Retail \$9.95)



**Aqua King Professional Waist Entry Full Length Suit** (Comes complete with hood, long shirt, long pants with boots attached, waistline sealing ring and can of HEALTHWAYS rubber dust). HEALTHWAYS Aqua King Suit is a revolutionary new pure gum molded latex seamless rubber suit which practically defies destruction! Even after being punctured this amazing material still resists further tearing! Another example of HEALTHWAYS leadership in the underwater sports field! There is no other dry type suit on the market which has the "wear-ability", tensile strength and form fitting comfort of the Aqua King! Easy to slip in and out of... holds shape permanently, retains elasticity indefinitely, is non-allergic, odorless and resists sun, water, oil and perspiration as no other rubber suit can! The Aqua King is the all-purpose all-fitting suit sensation for 1957! (Delivery about December 1st). Cat. No. 1722-Small, 1723-Medium, 1724-Large. (Retail \$42.50)

**Aqua Flite Water Ski and Skin Diving Suit** (Includes long sleeve shirt with foam neoprene collar, waistline sealing ring and ankle length pants). Made of 2-ply laminated gum rubber... designed and perfected by HEALTHWAYS team of experts! Ideal for water ski enthusiasts as well as skin divers! Keeps the skier warm and comfortable. Soft foam neoprene zipper collar gives comfort never before possible... easy to put on or take off! The Aqua Flite is an excellent dual-purpose rubber suit! Cat. No. 1740-Small, 1741-Medium, 1742-Large. (Retail \$29.95)



## FOAM NEOPRENE "WET TYPE" RUBBER SUITS Made of New Hi-Stretch Material

**La Jolla Full Suit** (Includes hood, zipper shirt, zipper long pants and boots). This design has been tried, tested and proven by the experts. Form fitting... comfortable! Unique zipper construction makes it easy to put on or take off! Seams are reinforced with colored neoprene stripping... workmanship is the finest! Cat. No. 1750-Small, 1751-Medium, 1752-Large. (Retail \$59.95)

**Monterey Foam Neoprene Full Suit** (Includes hood, long shirt with supporter apron, long pants and boots). Developed, tried, tested and proven by the experts! Form fitting, yet allows complete freedom of movement! The Monterey with its unique supporter apron is sold by other makers at \$75.00 and up! Seams are reinforced with colored neoprene stripping. Workmanship is the finest! The Monterey is one of the most popular wet suits in the world today. Cat. No. 1760-Small, 1761-Medium, 1762-Large. (Retail \$59.95)

**Balboa Foam Neoprene Skin Diving and Water Ski Jacket** Short sleeves, with full length front zipper and high comfortable collar. The Balboa is ideally suited for both skin diving and water skiing enthusiasts. Gives protection for vital upper parts of the body... helps maintain normal body temperature! Cat. No. 1770-Small, 1771-Medium, 1772-Large. (Retail \$19.95)

NOTE: Black Magic Foam Neoprene Cement makes possible easy, quick, on-the-spot repairs on all Healthways Foam Neoprene Suits! Cat. No. 1798 (Retail \$1.00)

## PECHE-SPORT VULCANIZED ISOTHERMIC PROFESSIONAL SUITS

**Pêche-Sport Isothermic Professional Suit** The world's finest professional exposure suit... used by the United States, British, French and Italian Navy frogman demolition teams. Comes with full length pants, long shirt and hood attached. Includes waistline sealing ring, detachable boots and can of HEALTHWAYS rubber dust. Made of vulcanized foam rubber with millions of tiny air cells... retains body heat by acting as an insulating blanket! Makes diving possible in almost any water temperature. May be worn with or without underclothing. The ultimate for "cold water" diving! Sensational new 1957 prices! Cat. No. 1701-Small (\$75.00) 1702-Medium (\$75.00) 1703-Large (\$85.00) 1704-Extra Large (\$90.00)

**Pêche-Sport Tahiti One-piece Short Suit** Made of the same vulcanized foam rubber as Pêche-Sport full suit. Has patented wrap around supporter and belt. Includes can of HEALTHWAYS rubber dust (does not include hood or boots). An ideal short suit. Keeps trunk and vital portions of the body warm even in the coldest water. Allows complete freedom of movement. Cat. No. 1705-Small, 1706-Medium, 1707-Large. (Retail \$39.95)

All components of all HEALTHWAYS suits are sold separately!

HEALTHWAYS... WORLD'S FINEST MOST COMPLETE LINE OF WATER SPORTS AND SPORTS DIVING EQUIPMENT!



# New York Divers Find Remains of Ship Down 118 Years

The "Sir Robert Peel," dormant for 118 years in the waters off Wellesley Island, New York, was discovered recently by five divers in 70 feet of water near the Thousand Islands Bridge. The Peel, a British sidewheeler, was burned and sunk in 1838 by a band of men dressed as Indians and led by Bill Johnson, "the first admiral of the Thousand Islands Navy" in an action of the Patriot's War.

The five divers making the historic discovery were led by Robert Evans, Syracuse and Grand View, Wellesley Islands, a member of the Syracuse Aqua Kings. His diving buddies were Herb Wilder, Robert Eggleston, Jerry Pickert and Ronald Haymond of Antwerp.

The quintet discovered the "Peel" about 300 yards above the Thousand Islands Bridge at a point about 150 feet from the shore of Wellesley Island. During two dives in mid-September the men recovered pieces of the charred ribs, an anchor, pots and pans, tools, an emblem from a panel and other small parts.

Evans and Bernie Forth, Syracuse, on a later dive reported the "Peel" is a complete wreck with little planking left on her hull. The boilers, the size of two automobiles are within the frame of her gutted hull and the spokes of her sidewheel are intact. A 1500 pound anchor, evidently from another ship near the "Peel," was also discovered.

Conditions during the eventful dive, according to Evans, were: visibility by lights only, rocky bottom, currents variable.

"While coming back from Brown Bay, where there's an old wreck which I haven't found yet, I was passing where I figured the 'Robert Peel' to be," Evans said. "I saw three divers ascending from the water."

Evans and the three planned a later dive for the "Peel." On the day of the dive, Evans reports, "Today I was to meet them at noon, but they were late. I got nervous and went and tried a dive. I had neither buoy nor lines. Well it happened at about 60 feet. I



Bernard Forth and Bob Evans of Syracuse, New York, show evidence of their historic underwater find in front of State Marker on Wellesley Island.

spotted this huge anchor which was about 10 feet high and the chain. The anchor and chain seemed to mark something by the looks of the chain going up in the water a little, but I had no lines, so the only thing I could do is try for a straight line for the top, turning over rocks as markers on the way up."

When the rest of the crew arrived, the divers started down holding on to a line about five feet apart. "One of the guys ran out of air (he was using 35 cubic feet). He was my partner for the dive, so when he left I had to begin my ascent too, but the current got me for about ten feet and I lost sight of him. But I gained a new sight of that anchor and chain. I tied my line to the chain but then changed my mind when I spotted a smaller one, a four pointer, lying alongside the big one. I took my light down the chain and there was the nose of a huge ship. I didn't go any further. I was overstaying my visit now, so I began to ascend."

"Well lady luck was completely against me for the current took the

buoy and tightened up the line. The bobbing of the buoy freed the anchor. The currents are funny; variable, swift and mean in some places and nothing in another. Well the anchor moved, dropped over the ledge and down she went taking the buoy with it."

Evans explained that two of the other divers wanted to take a look, but at the 60 mark instead of over 100 feet. "The reason being we saw some logs and planks piled on a ledge about 65 feet. Later a diver came up and signalled that this was it. Down there was the 'Peel,' or what was left of it."

"She sits on a ledge in about 70 feet of water just about level on this ledge. That explains how we missed it before," the New York diver said. "We were below it and swam under it."

"I got a good piece of her rib, partly burned," Evans reported. "The current is in reverse there and it's rough going to try to keep from being thrown against it."

One of the divers was tossed against the smoke stack of the old relic tearing his suit from his hip to his ankle. ➤

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*Presents several interesting shots of Diver Pat Chase, a very bright youngster who proves most children take to the sport like seal-cubs when skilled instruction is offered them.*

# YOUNG MAN WITH A LUNG...



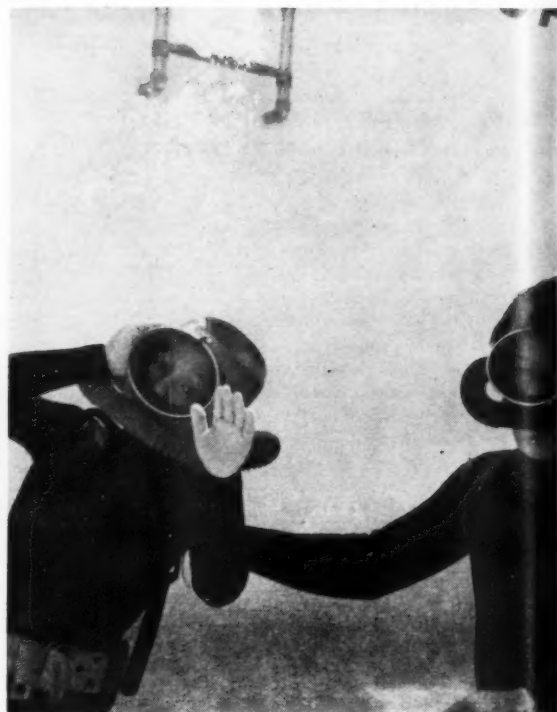
*picture story by Dan Tompkins*



**DOWN, PLEASE.** Pat hits the water in an accepted manner. SD assumes he was allowed to wear Weight-Belt under the tank straps since dive took place in restricted area under close supervision.



**HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT.** Instructor Bob Lorenz stands by while Pat demonstrates the fine art of clearing the face mask. Pat is the youngest student Lorenz has ever taught. Says Instructor Lorenz: "Teaching kids diving—



and, particularly, Scuba-Diving—is quite a bit of work. This fellow has constantly plagued me to let him dive in the open sea—a practice I do not believe safe for any youngster his age."

**ONE WAY TO AVOID THAT HORRENDOUS FREEWAY TRAFFIC.** A stunt which, besides being a lot of fun, shows Pat's coordination underwater. 9-year-old Pat has been diving for a year and a half.



**CLOSE WORK.** Once you've mastered handling marbles underwater—grabbing bugs, in later years, is a cinch. Isn't Pat fudging a little there?



**UPSY-DAISY!** Tossing husky Instructor Lorenz around is child's play for Pat—with the water all in his favor.



**THIS FICTION IS ALL WET.** You'll kindly notice our Watersprout is doing his reading up where the light is good.

*continued*



**ANYONE FOR STUNNING FISHES?** Yo-Yo technique was not part of the training, but Pat shows you anything can be done underwater . . . if you know how.

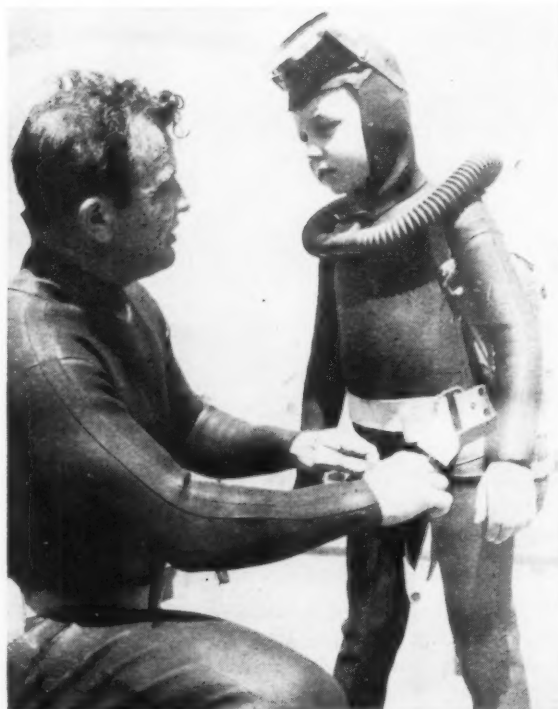


**AW, HECK—I WAS JUST GETTING STARTED!** Session ends and Pat is helped out of his gear. Instructor Lorenz owns well known **Water Gill Products** company. Despite his student's obvious disgust, Diver Lorenz knows good divers never overdo even a wonderful sport like SCUBA-Diving. He hopes Pat will learn this and add it to his store of Safety know-how in years of underwater activity to come.

*end*



**JOURNEY BY WATERWAGON.** Just another stunt to show Pat's confidence and ability to handle himself (and almost any object) beneath the surface. Training took place in the Del Mar Club pool at Santa Monica.



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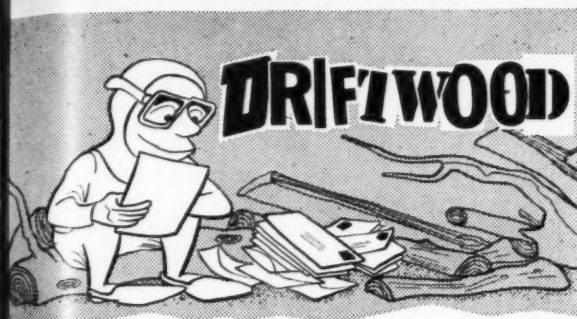
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I just don't know.

After that tremendous influx of mail last month (and don't think I didn't have to battle for two pages worth of space), the piddling amount of letters which arrived this month is enough to make strong men cry and any editor worth his salt—wonder why he didn't take up retail vacuum-cleaner selling. What's the trouble out there? Have I frightened you to a standstill with my brilliant repartee and deft retorts? Well, here's what dribbled in (and most welcome it was, too); and for the benefit of any egocentrics among us—kindly notice we are now giving whole names. Jeezley. Next it'll be premiums. I'll race you down the beach to the nonsense...

#### BITTERSWEET MEMORIES...

Gosh, I never dreamed you were a skin diver, too. I used to read those articles you wrote, years ago, in the *Home Movies* magazine, Kohler. Somewhere along the way you've acquired a sarcastic gloss that doesn't do very much for you, but it certainly adds a distinctive sparkle to the *Driftwood* page. When are you going to come back over here and go snorkeling with us, chérie?

Trudy Gerber, Cannes, France

Distinctive sparkle, eh. Everyone notice that? This page has distinctive sparkle. When am I going to shamble into the South of France again? C'est autre chose, kid.

What with all the fancy gimmicks and complicated gadgets flooding the market, I guess the nice old days of spearfishing are over. Gone are the times when you had to be really good to get your fish—using goggles, the lungs God gave you and a handspear. Now all you have to be is a dude loaded down with high-priced gear.

Edward Fleming, Wilmington, N.C.

Oh, I dunno, Old Timer. I miss a shot now and then—say, about 80% of the time. These new-fangled, wonderful spearguns don't come equipped with built-in accuracy, yet.

#### ANYONE FOR GIVING SAFETY A TRIAL?

Say, Kohler, page five of the January *Skin Diver* stirred up considerable interest in Mary, Sheila and myself. We are three "Amazon" divers and we think we can beat the best male team in the life-saving contest! The three of us hold Red Cross life-saving certificates and pretty sure we can beat the boys if this contest is to be open to us "weaker sex."

Betty Smith, Bangor, Maine

Maybe you can... I don't know from nothing about Amazons.

Our club, in the Great Lakes area, has been seriously considering the program the *Skin Diver* set up, in the January issue, on water safety. For a long time we have felt that skin divers could not only help their fellow divers, in time of trouble, but could actually save the lives of hundreds of swimmers by stimulating interest in a national life-saving and water safety program. By the way, don't the Australians have a similar program?

Jim Johnson, Chicago, Illinois

They may have. I don't know. But the entire idea sounds like the sort of thing intelligent, humane divers should support and advertise, doesn't it. I've got to learn to swim, myself, one of these days. Man, I'm lost without those fins...

I noticed, in the January issue that the *Diver* is going to sponsor a series of safety trials and life-saving procedure tests. I would like to see you as the fatally drowned victim.

Lee Thomas, Des Moines, Iowa

And I, on the other hand, would like to see you in...

I'm a real blonde, have blue eyes and stand 5-feet-2 in my fins. I'd love to play "dummy" when all those big, handsome guys start

**SKIN DIVER—February, 1957**

the safety trials I saw mentioned in the January *Skin Diver*. See you, all, in the water!

Sue White, Savannah, Georgia

Oh, those lucky, lucky Savannah divers.

#### DEPARTMENT OF UTTER CONFUSION...

I've been wanting to ask you if you think there might really be such creatures as mermaids. I've given it a lot of thought—and, considering all of the peculiar tricks of momma nature, it doesn't seem so far-fetched that there might be mermaids. Legend often is rooted in fact, you know. Kohler, do you agree with me... and have you ever caught yourself keeping an eye open for some lovely, half-woman/half-fish while underwater?

Jack Letterman, Toronto, Canada

Hell, no. I'm obsessed with those all-woman creatures up on the beach. But I don't completely disbelieve in mermaids, and I admire your courage and imagination even if you are overlooking what's around you.

You are a wit, (oh, well, I'm half right, anyway) for your being a skin diver, the only water you've ever been near is the water on your brain. Why don't you and your column catch a slow turtle to China?

Joe Lopiccolo, Van Nuys, California

Isn't juvenility wonderful.

What type exposure suit do you prefer—wet or dry? Personally, I prefer the dry because it gets pretty cold, here, winters. Also... why the evasion? Are you just plain stupid or have you got something against Jerry N. of Long Beach? If you're such an expert—you ought to be able to answer a simple question like: Is there any legal limit on Manta Rays?

Allen Crabtree III

I prefer a dry suit, if you must know. And if that answer to the question regarding the damn limit on the damn Manta Ray is so simple, friend: How about you showing me up in a big way by supplying it?

We read your *Driftwood* page each month and think it's the coolest thing this side of Elvis. We don't dive, but our brothers sure spend a lot of time diving. Kohler, we don't think you're for real!

Dot McCarty, Lila Dobbson, Wanda Miller, Gayle Mitchell, Sandi Cummings, Elgin, Illinois

I'm the real-est cat this side of Johnny Otis, kittens.

#### THINKING ALOUD...

I've been reading your page for sometime now and I wonder if I can get a Pen Pal through it. If anybody is interested—here's some information about myself: I'm fourteen and I love skin diving, although I don't have an Aqua-Lung. That's about all I can think of to say about myself.

Richard Whisman, 719 Castro Street, San Francisco, California

Here's a modest, but willing lad—should anybody care to write him. Will all you 14-year-old gals, with Aqua-Lungs, in the Frisco area, kindly ramble over and let Rich further his diving experience?

Kohler, I'm a big fan of your *Driftwood* page and I've been simply dying to meet you. Next April I'm going to be in Southern California for a few weeks and I'd love to visit you at the *Skin Diver* office. Would you object to a tall, slender brunette, who really spearfishes and loves it, dropping in for a looksee at you, you big crazy. Keep up the page—it's marvelous!

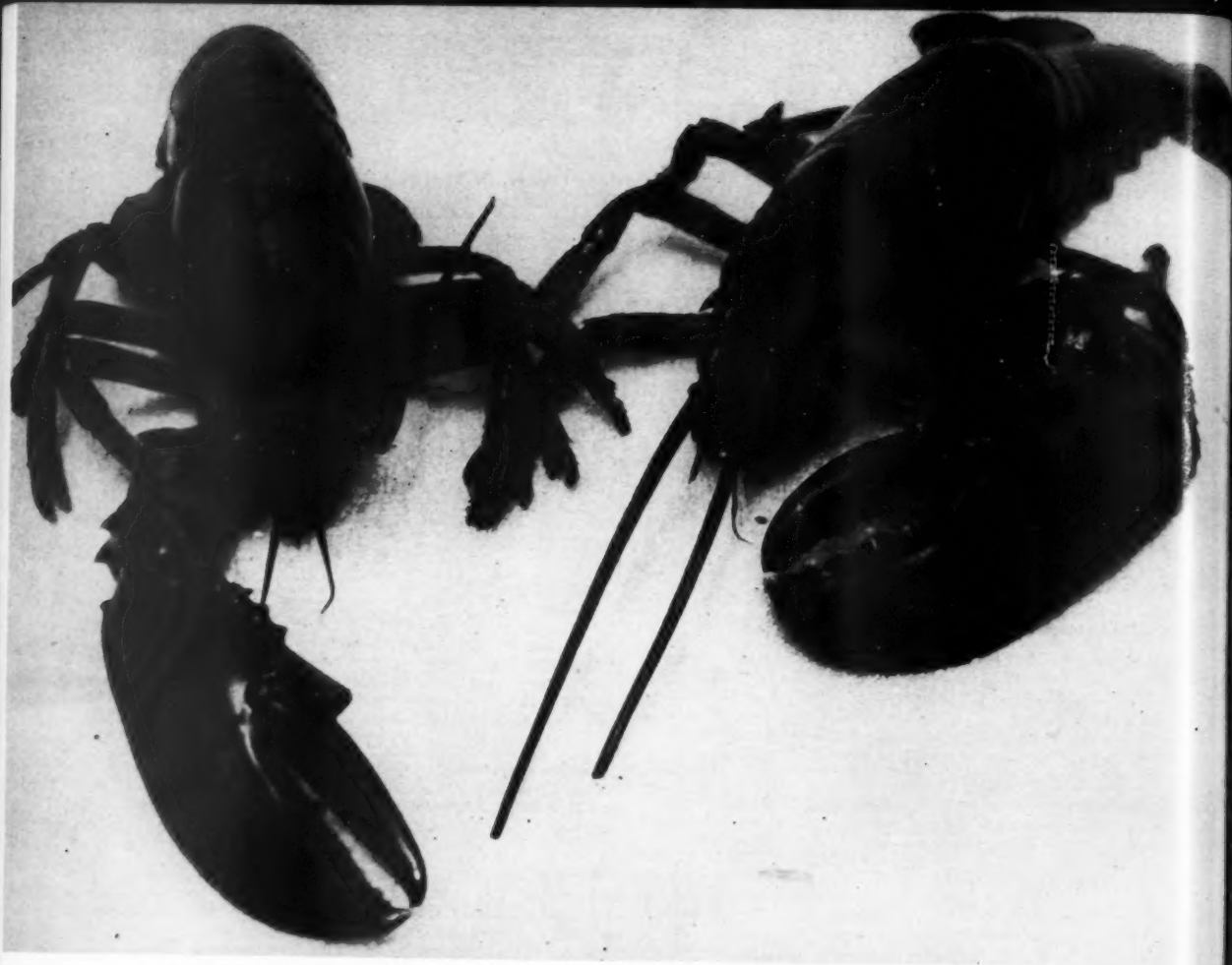
Paula Werner, Tacoma, Washington

Object? I should live so long. I'm the esthetic-looking slob in the back office, surrounded by all the paperwork. Please ignore that Do Not Visit The Workbeast sign hanging over my desk. I'm all agog until April, Paula.

#### AND IT SAYS HERE...

...that I'm up to my snorkle in incoming poems. I'll announce the winner of the Kohler-\$10-Doggerel-Contest-And-Rhyme-Time-Bit next issue. And, unless the publishers of this august rag stop me, I'll have a Booby Prize for the least-winning verse. Well, come up for air once in awhile and keep diving safely. See you...

KOHLER



Culls. Lobsters often lose one or both claws in battles with each other. A new claw will grow in to replace the lost one.

# MAINE LOBSTER

By DON LAMONT

Northeast Council of Skin Diving Clubs, P. O. Box 42, Shawsheen Village, Mass.

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SKIN

**SKIN DIVERS LIVING** in Florida can boast about the warm water and extraordinary visibility; skin divers on the West Coast can proclaim the virtues of a long diving season and delicious Abalone steaks, but skin divers in Maine—poor souls—having no warm water, poor visibility, a short diving season, and no Abalone, have to be contented with an abundance of succulent Maine lobster varied once in awhile with scallops, clams, oysters, and various varieties of fish. With a lobster fishing license, the Maine skin diver may take lobsters any time of year in any manner he chooses so long as he does not mutilate them.

Lobsters are found almost everywhere in Maine coastal waters from sheltered inlets to deep ocean. When living in inlets where there is a hard tidal run, lobsters usually scoop out a shallow hole and in these depressions with tail neatly tucked under them, they lie in wait for small fish, crabs, or even brother lobsters to come their way. More often than not however, the most appetizing dish to a lobster is some dead life of the sea upon which he feeds with great relish. A "lung" diver working with the current can dive to the bottom, let the current take him along, pluck lobsters from these depressions, gauge them, and put them into a small net or container carried in his hand. Visibility in these channels is invariably limited and a diver's course must be almost directly over a lobster or he will not even see it. Many lobsters invite a diver's attention by standing on their tails with claws extended, thinking perhaps they are in for a king-sized meal.

On the sloping banks of channels, lobsters during shedding season dig deep tunnels into the mud banks. Here it is virtually impossible to pull them out. However, since a lobster often digs an alternate way out, by poking a stick into one hole, he will back out the other where the gloved hand of a diver waits to seize him.

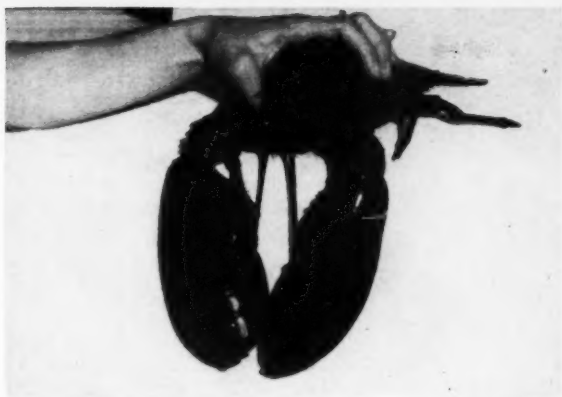
How does one grab a lobster? The safest way is to hold him by the body shell with forefingers and thumb held tightly against the two claw joints close to the body. He is then gauged with the free hand. An experienced lobster diver can tell at a glance and also by the feel of the shell diameter in his hands whether he has a "short" or a legal-sized lobster. Lobsters most taken are those of the one pound size called "chickens." In Massachusetts they would be known as "Maine Shorts" because Massachusetts laws have a slightly larger gauge on minimum size.

When a lobster is wedged tightly under a rock with only his claws showing, it then becomes a matter of how daring a diver is in attempting to get him out. Some make a grab for both claws and with a single heave pull the lobster free, at the same instant grabbing with the free hand for the body shell. It is often impossible to do this as the lobster will draw both claws in close to his head folded and overlapping. Since lobsters can move their claws lightning fast underwater, any frontal attack is recommended only for experts.

Many rigs have been invented to pull lobsters out of holes varying from coathangers bent into hooks to elaborate pole devices with spring clamps which close around the body shell. Some of these devices are quite successful, but it should be noted here that Maine law forbids the mutilation of a lobster in any way in catching it.

Grabbing a lobster by one claw to pull him from under a rock will not work, as the lobster will simply release tension on the claw muscle and it will break off in the hand. However if both claws are grabbed together, the lobster will not "let go" his entire protection and will come out.

(Continued on Page 40)



The business end of a two-pound Maine lobster. Large claw on left is called "crusher" for breaking shells, etc. Longer claw is for tearing up fish for eating, etc.



A day's catch of Maine lobsters. Lobsters must be pegged soon after being caught or they will quickly dismember one another.



Some members of the Coast of Maine Neptunes enjoy boiled lobster on beach. Dachshund in foreground preferred lobster shells to meat.

# DIVERS DEEP FREEZE

By DON DAVISON

In Scuba diving, two pieces of equipment, the human body and the air supply are of prime importance. The human body is the most perfect piece of machinery ever devised and yet the hospitals are full of those who have suffered a failure of some part or another. Certainly every diver should get the basic facts from his doctor about his body to determine that there are no parts in his personal machine that might fail under unusual stress. The other piece of basic equipment, the air supply or Scuba, should be thoroughly tested under all conditions. Together these two pieces of basic equipment become as one and the perfect operation of both assures the safety of the diver.

The entire personnel of Dacor Corporation has dedicated their efforts to producing a self contained breathing apparatus for underwater diving with no parts subject to failure under stress or adverse conditions. Slide rule facts of the engineering department are checked several different ways and then mechanical stress tests are conducted on the best testing machines known to science. However, as the sage once remarked, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," so we are continuing research into the fields of actual use. Hundreds of test dives under varying conditions are recorded in the files and there has not been a single failure. As an example, Don Hue of our staff has recorded many dives to depths of 230 feet, in fresh water, without the slightest malfunction of any part of his mechanical equipment. The fact has been established that in this depth area, "nitrogen narcosis" begins to cause a malfunction of the human body in varying degrees, depending upon the physiology of the diver, so further tests in this direction would establish nothing, except the limit of endurance of that particular diver and would merely be an attempt to enter the field of dramatics. Research has definitely shown that mechanical equipment will continue in perfect operation at much greater depths and pressures than the human body could possibly withstand. Excessive heat in diveable waters would be a rarity, but encountering cold waters is almost a daily occurrence.

COLD . . . or, the lack of heat, and how much of it could the Dacor Unit withstand and still operate perfectly was next on the agenda of our research. Equipment was sought with which to conduct tests in this direction. The Perfection division of the Hupp Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, has two rooms in which they test equipment for use in the arctic. The building housing the larger of the two Cold Rooms is 60' by 60' by 22' high, separated from the main plant by which it is connected by an enclosed areaway, was built expressly for the Cold Room and test equipment. The Cold Room proper 32' long by 30' wide, by 16' high, the equipment access door is 12' by 12', and the personnel access door is 6' high by 4' wide. All operations within the room can be viewed from outside through one of the three observation windows, each 2' by 4' and with seven thicknesses of Thermopane.

Equipment may be stored for static tests at temperatures of Minus 85 degrees Fahrenheit and controlled within plus or minus 2 degrees, as recorded by five temperature measuring instruments. Oxygen Resuscitating Equipment is avail-

able for immediate use when any test involving personnel is in progress and two Research Engineers, Ed Plunkard and Bob Carmichael, who have charge of the Cold Rooms are in constant attendance during tests to supervise and direct all equipment and personnel. They advised that the room would probably be "Pulled Down" to 80 Below Zero for our test sometime within a month following our request. We were told that anybody within the Cold Room during the test would need adequate protection from the extreme cold and that we should plan to complete our test within a matter of minutes. We had heard that one testing firm limited their personnel to exposure during tests at 80 Below Zero, to five minutes in any 8 hour period, even though outfitted with fur lined parkas and hoods, flight type trousers, flight boots, nylon gloves, fur lined gloves, heavy lined leather gloves and face masks to protect them from the dangers of these extreme temperatures.

80 DEGREES BELOW ZERO . . . Sounds cold, but actually how cold we did not know. We had worked out the coefficients of expansion and contraction of each part of the lung and felt they should work properly. We knew there might be some air leakage in the regulator due to the unequal contraction of materials and the freezing of parts. The condensation of moisture from our breathing would freeze on the non return valves. Some of this same moisture would freeze our exhaust valve, but this frozen material would flake off during the flexing of those parts in the breathing cycle, if the materials of the parts did not freeze and become inoperative. We knew that the heat from our exhaled air should be adequate to keep the parts from freezing solid. We hoped we were right, as we had been told that even a few breaths of raw air at that temperature could do irreparable damage to our lungs.

It's a crazy world at 80 below zero. Cold gasoline poured on a fire will put it out; drive a nail into an inflated tire and the tire stays inflated; drop a raw egg onto a piece of metal and it freezes instantly, resembling a hard fried egg; throw a grape on the floor and it shatters like a glass marble; pick up a 10 foot length of garden hose by one end and it acts like a piece of steel pipe—whack it on the floor and it shatters into hundreds of pieces; pour orange juice into a cup in which a stick is placed and—presto!—"Ice Pops." One thing we did not need to worry about was catching cold, as bacteria will not live at such temperatures and we wondered how we might parallel them.

At any rate, our curiosity had been thoroughly aroused by the time we were told that Saturday, October 27, was to be the day of our test. Sam Davison, Jr. joined me at Cleveland on Friday evening to make a final equipment check prior to the test. Early the next morning we arrived at Perfection. The thermometer registered the cold room as being 83 degrees below zero and through the observation window it looked a blue cold, in spite of the room being brilliantly lighted. Ed Plunkard and Bob Carmichael told us that the units which had been soaking in the cold for a few days seemed to be in good working order, that the tubing was surprisingly flexible and the diaphragms, although frozen still were flexible and did not crack when flexed. Each of

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Ed Plunkard, Don Davison, Sam Davison, Jr., and Bob Carmichael after the frigid test. Temperature in the Cold Room was 83 degrees below zero. J. L. Reinard Photo.

us wore special warm underwear under two suits of standard long woolen underwear, over this, a suit of arctic underwear, four pairs of heavy socks, two pair of wool gloves under rubber gloves, then our rubber suits over all this. Under our rubber hoods we had pulled on woolen helmets and our faces were to be covered with arctic face masks, with only our eyes exposed and the mouth flap open to provide access for the mouthpiece.

Our final instructions—touch nothing with our bare skin as the resulting burn could be serious, do not let our rubber suits come in contact with our skin, as that would also burn us and most important—if the units failed to operate perfectly at all times or if they seemed to be failing even though slightly—hold our breath and rush from the room. Lastly, do not overstay, as the caloric heat would leave our bodies in a hurry and we would become frostbitten and our hearts would be severely taxed trying to maintain body heat. Nice guys, Plunkard and Carmichael, or were they just trying to scare us. Perhaps they did not know that the doctor who gave us our metabolism and cardiograph tests had already warned us of the dangers involved.

Fully dressed, we were ushered to the personnel door leading into the anteroom of the cold room, where the temperature was a mere 10 degrees above zero—nice and warm. After a few minutes in this room, we mounted our lungs which had been soaking in water, opened the air

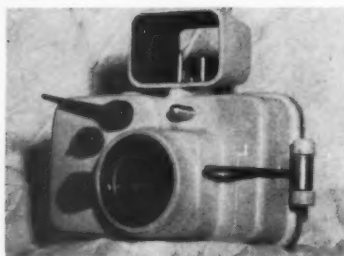
valves, inserted the mouthpieces. We then opened the door to the cold room and entered. There was no doubt as to that room being cold. A bucket of water was handed into us and we used about one-third of it before the remainder froze, in alternately pouring it onto the exhaust valves of our regulators where it froze, almost the moment of contact. The units continued to function perfectly. The first indication of the freezing of the breath condensate was after about three minutes when each inhalation was like breathing through the open mouth in a heavy snow storm. I could feel the ice particles striking the inside of my mouth and throat, but at no time was there any difficulty in getting air.

The observers outside, whom we could see through the window and who had now amounted to about ten in number, looked as though they were in a different world in their state of undress, wearing nothing but street clothes. Each few seconds the loud speaker asked how we were doing to which we were to answer with the standard OK circle formed by the thumb and forefinger. After a few minutes, these appendages seemed to be too much trouble to form into circles so we merely nodded.

When we first entered the room, we had carried two eggs, a banana, a tomato and a bucket of water with which to experiment. We immediately broke one of the eggs onto a barrel top and when Sam tried to pick up a piece of the shell which had dropped onto the egg, he lifted the entire

(Continued on Page 33)

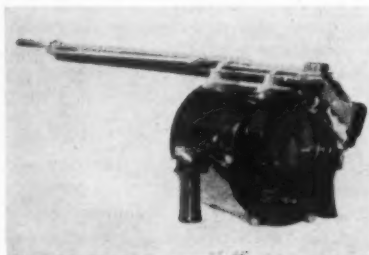
# NEW PRODUCTS



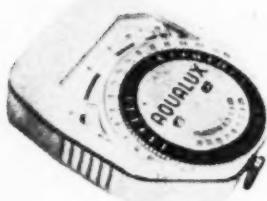
**WOLLMAN SCHMIDT Undersea Camera** & Equipment, Inc. features a precision housing to take most 35mm cameras. Superbly designed of cast aluminum, brass controls, plate glass window, Schrader air valve, "O" ring seals, pointer sight, one finger cam lock, flash port, lever film wind, shutter release, focus control, diaphragm control with extra accessories available including: B-C flash gun, tunnel sight, filters and film rewind control for changing films while the camera is still in the housing. For further information write to: Wollman Schmidt Undersea Camera & Equipment, Inc., 352 - 7th Ave., New York 1, New York.



**CHOP TOP SWIM TRUNKS**—for the skin diver. A form-fitting suit, good looking and durable. The Chop Top has side zipper for trim fit, supporter, hidden change pocket... designed for all-day wear. Comes in Red Check, White or Navy Twill. Sizes 28-36—Price ppd. \$4.95 from—Parr of Arizona, Box 294, Phoenix, Arizona.



**SAMPSON GUN & CAMERA**—An ideal combination for the diver wishing to record any unusual catch. The Sampson 16mm case and 70-DL Bell & Howell camera with Elgeet 13mm wide angle 1.5 lens installed ready to use. . . . \$843.00 from Sampson Machine Works, 1604 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, California.



**AQUALUX LIGHT METER**—Underwater light meter hermetically sealed to withstand pressures to 100 feet. One meter for still or movie cameras. Very sensitive for exacting picture taking. Designed for you the skin diver. For additional information write —U. S. Divers Corp., 11201 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 64, California.



**SPRAY TALC**—At last a convenient way of applying talc to rubber suits. A durable flexible bottle—with talc—and moisture proof cap. Remains flexible in coldest weather. A little talc goes a long way with super spray dusting. Try one soon at your dealers or order direct. Only \$.69 complete. Include postage, shipping weight 10 oz. Shipped prepaid when 6 or more are ordered. **SPORT DIVER CORP.**, 1523 W. State Street, Milwaukee 3, Wisc.



WORN LIKE THIS—



INFLATED

**THE LIFEGUARD COMPANY** pioneers of self inflating life preservers offers two new models for the skin diver. For more than 15 years LifeGards have been 'on duty' all over the world. From the cockpits of Canadian Air Force planes to loggers riding rafts on turbulent rivers or boaters on their favorite lakes LifeGards have had many vital assignments. They are made in two sizes—Standard and Heavy Duty. A unique feature is the special breakoff tip CO2 cartridge that inflates it with a quick squeeze. For complete information write LifeGuard Co. 918D Emerson St., Denver, Colo.



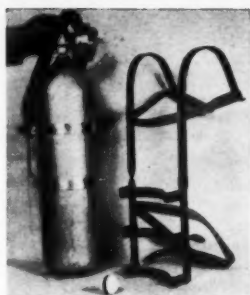
**MAR-MAC Industries**, introduces the new Hydraulic Accumulator Gun . . . the "Penetrator". Manufacturer claims gun is designed to operate indefinitely without costly recharging units. The MAR-MAC "Penetrator" is charged and expelled by the water you dive in. No "kick" or "flailing" as experienced in rubber or charged guns. Cavitation is completely eliminated by the unique expulsion method giving more accurate target results. No disturbance of water to frighten quarry. Stainless working parts used in the "Penetrator" reduces electrolysis deterioration to a minimum. The "Penetrator" is light in weight, balanced, compact and is half the size of the average gun, yet packing the penetrating power and accuracy of the most costly. Priced at \$29.95 at your local dealers. Write **MAR-MAC Industries**, 1453D Revere Avenue, Hayward, California.



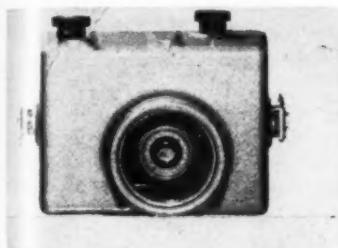
**PURGING TUBE KIT**—For dry type suits. The tube is easily attached to any dry suit; with a few inhalations your suit is completely void of air, enabling use of fewer weights, pre-setting of creases for deep dives, and pre-dives tests for leaks. With a few puffs into the purging tube, your suit is now safely buoyant should you become tired. Kit is free with all Richards dry suits. Price of Purging Kit—\$2.98 from Richards, 233D West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y.



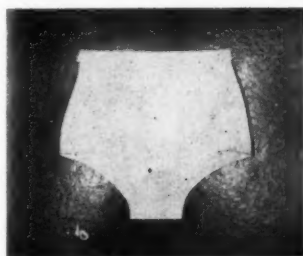
**CAMERA HOUSING**, by Welner Precision Labs., announces their new model M-6 to accept most 35mm cameras. The housing is constructed of 1/2 inch tubular lucite. Features extreme flexibility of operation by the use of two rubber gloves at each end of the housing, for manipulation of controls. Simplicity of design will keep the price in the range of all camera enthusiasts. For further information write to: Welner Precision Labs., Gouverneur Ave., Bronx 63, New York.



**HEALTHWAYS JET-O-SEN HARNESS**—Quick release lifetime self-contained underwater breathing apparatus harness. Designed for all standard 70 cu. ft. tanks. The entire SCUBA unit can be jettisoned from the harness—gives split-second timing for release and replacement of empty tanks. The Jet-O-Sen incorporates safety features and comfort never before possible for beginner and expert alike! Retail \$16.95.



**MAKO ARGUS C-3 & LEICA HOUSING**—Aluminum alloy precision casting with brass shafts. All controls and ports are "O" ring sealed. Standard housings come with shutter release and film wind controls. Tested to 100 feet plus. Additional controls available, including flash. Both housings fit wide angle lens. Price \$49.95. Underwater Sports, Inc., 2219 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida.

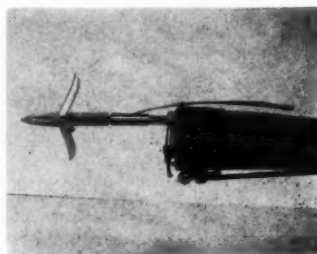


**SKIN DIVER TRUNKS**—Here are the trunks you've been looking for. Tested on the Island of Iwo Jima during the past few seasons. Cool enough for the tropics yet insulated against coldest New England waters. "Skin Diver" trunks, made of durable steam cured rubber, are snug fitting to assure good appearance on the beach and are perfect for all skin diver activities. Color is white with blue stripe at sides. Surface has herringbone weave pattern presenting a most attractive appearance. Skin surface of suit is smooth for comfort and ease of donning. Skin diver trunks, though snug fitting, are carefully cut to allow complete freedom of motion. Price \$5.00 each, from—Mariner Wear, 16D Sunset Road, Bristol, R. I.

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957



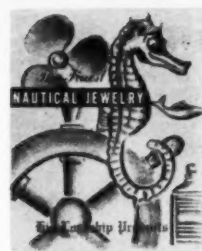
**SEAHAWK—MARK III** for the Leica. One of a series of metal housings for the Leica and Argus 35mm cameras. The cases are high-quality yet low priced. They feature: outside controls for film wind and lock, shutter release and cock . . . port that accepts flash adapter. The entire case is precision designed and machined, anodized for corrosion. Also, tested and guaranteed to 150 feet. Write for free brochure—Seahawk Products, Box 1157, Dept. 2D, Coral Gables, Florida.



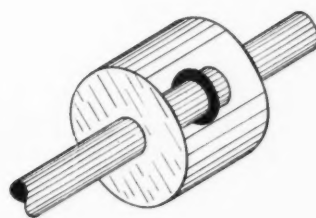
**SAMPSON THREE BARB HEAD**, is featured on all Sampson guns and may be purchased separately. The head has a heavy tool steel body, tempered stainless steel barbs, double cable from shaft to head, is very sharp and streamlined for the greatest penetration. Price, \$6.50 from SAMPSON Machine Works, 1604D Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, California.



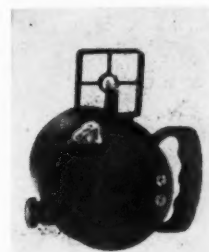
**SAMPSON RUBBER GUN**, for the expert diver and big fish hunter. Made of a special alloy of aluminum, treated for corrosion. All moving parts are bronze, heavily constructed to stand a 1000 pound pull test for strength. Uses a 5/16 inch shaft and six rubber head for greater power and accuracy. The Sampson, with its sloping handle, is designed to shoot from the shoulder. The gun has a positive safety . . . flip off or on for shooting . . . features twin line releases for use with a powerhead and floatation gear. Also, has knuckle guard for protection of the hands and flushing port for easy maintenance. Price, \$47.50 from SAMPSON Machine Works, 1604D Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, California.



**HIS LORDSHIP NAUTICAL JEWELRY**—The catalog shown lists upwards of 100 designs for men and women who love boats and water sports. Miniature reproductions of salty subjects, ranging from boat-designs and marine-equipment to motifs of the sea, are all included in this unusual jewelry that comes in Sterling Silver and 14 Karat Gold. Packed in beautiful soft-kid, leather pouches, they make ideal all-year gifts for anyone with even a touch of sea-fever about him. Write for a copy of the new catalog, from His Lordship Products Co., 245D 7th Ave., New York N. Y.



**CAMERA CASE CONTROL GLAND**—for plastic housings. A lifetime seal, nothing to adjust . . . for film wind, shutter release, lens etc. The neoprene "O" ring gives super-easy winding for faster operation underwater. The gland will fit flat or curved cases—internal or external depending on your needs. Just drill oversize hole & cement gland in place. Free camera case construction hints with each order. Gland with 4 inch shaft \$2.95—6 inch shaft \$3.50 from—Dive Rite, Box 3445D, Long Beach, California.



**HEALTHWAYS MAKO SHARK CAMERA**—Not just a case but an entire camera that is waterproof and pressureproof. It is lightweight, rugged, scientific hand grip makes it easy to carry and handle . . . its direct viewfinder helps snap pictures fast! The waterproof features make it an ideal camera for other sportsmen, no dirt, dust or moisture to ruin your camera and film. Constructed of styrene, "O" ring sealed and completely corrosion proof. 1/55 second shutter with fixed focus lens. Shoots 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 (620) color or black and white film. Price \$19.95—With flash \$26.50—Cuda BC flash attachment alone \$5.95. Healthways of Los Angeles, California.



# DICE ON

By WILLIAM HALE

3:40 a.m.—one of those interminably lonely hours before dawn would begin streaking the California sky above the sleeping city of Santa Monica. Out on the pier, in his watchtower, a lifeguard patiently sat out the last hours of his duty—his small radio playing popular music and commercials.

A peaceful prelude to another day.

Suddenly, a flare burst into electrifying brilliance above the *Star of Scotland* in the bay. Unknown to the lifeguard, the men aboard the *Star*, a gambling ship, had been fighting a sinking ship all that night. Responding immediately, the lifeguard and several other men, hurriedly recruited, went to the ship.

Arriving at the ship's anchorage, the rescuers aboard the lifeguard boat *Pilikia* found the *Star* very low at the stern and taking a violent beating from the heavy ground swell.

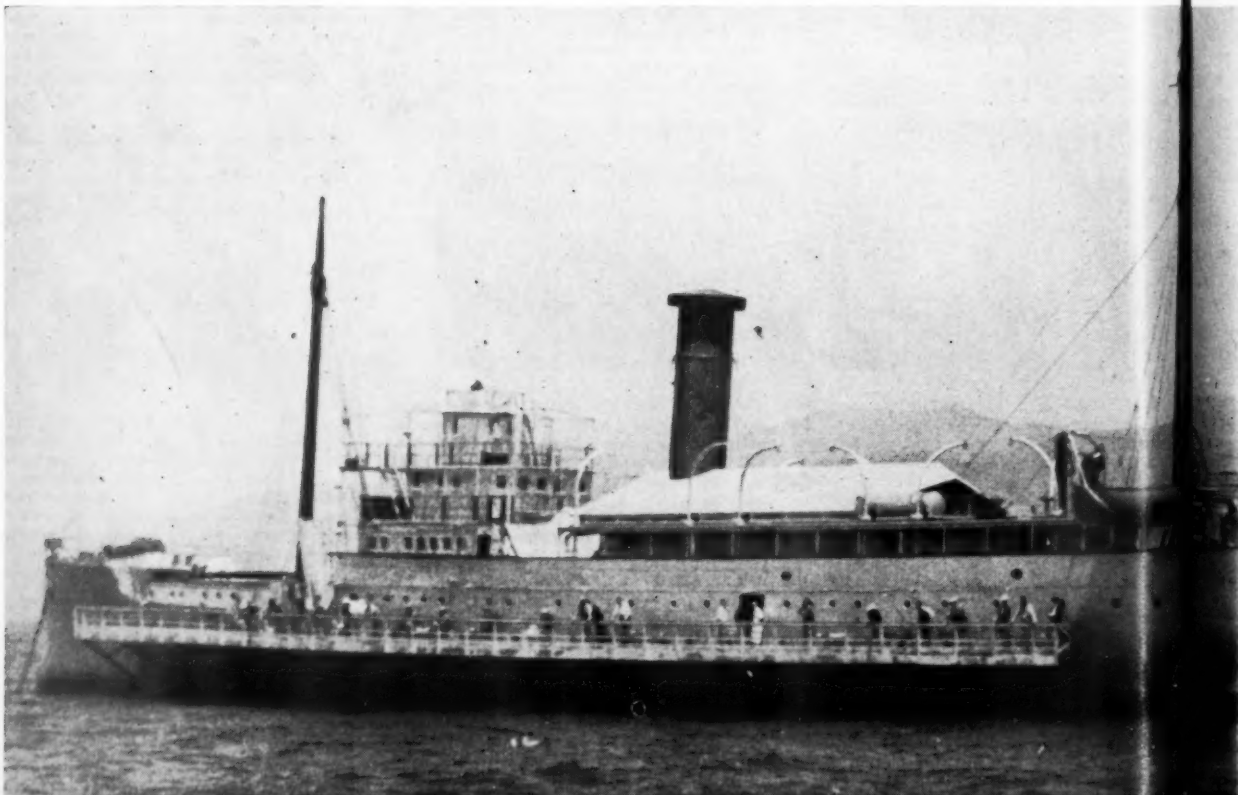
Without further warning, she began her ponderous plunge

beneath the sea—taking an unfortunate crewmember with her. In less than two minutes, the *Star* had vanished stern-first into the turbulent water, only a churning maelstrom of wreckage and oily litter marking the spot where she had wallowed seconds before.

Her owner, Harry Wilson, was picked up—clinging to a box—a few minutes later. Back on the pier, shaken by his experience, he managed to stammer out his dazed recollection of the sinking: "It seemed to me it went down in about ten seconds . . . something just let go all at once. Possibly a swell got under a fishing stage on the side and lifted a whole row of plates at once."

The 400' vessel was not insured and her owner estimated his loss at \$100,000.00. And so ended the colorful history of a ship that had once been in service as a British Warship . . . Panamanian intercoastal freighter . . . Mexican banana boat and spent her last years operating as a gambling ship with a very unsavory reputation.

## THE OFT-NAMED SHIP, STAR OCC



# IN THE BOTTOM

I heard about the sunken *Star* from two skin diving friends—Dick Anderson and Jack Reynolds. Anderson is a diving-equipment technician for an L. A. sporting goods company and may be remembered as one of the two-man team who crossed the Catalina Channel in a tiny, two-man submarine awhile back. Reynolds is a student at Santa Monica City College. Both are avid and skilled divers.

Together, we decided to explore the *Star* which has lain on the bottom since January 23, 1942.

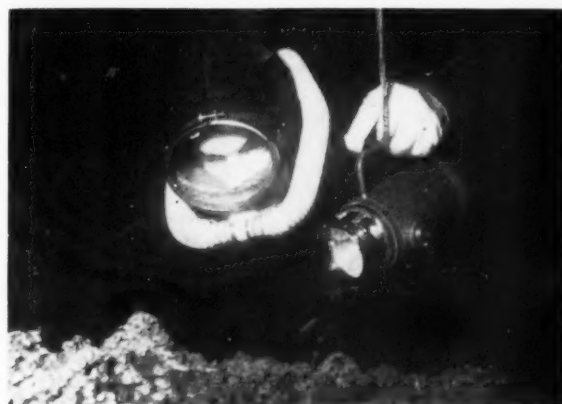
Leaving the Santa Monica pier in Anderson's 22' boat, *Sans Peur*, we skirted the breakwater and began dredging for the *Star* with our anchor. She lies about a mile offshore. Hindered by a thick fog and the lack of a compass, it was two hours before we felt the jolt of the anchor lodging itself against the encrusted hull of the old gambling ship.

Anderson and Reynolds—wearing full suits and Divair self-contained breathing apparatus—made the first trip down through the murky water. A few moments later, they re-



Dick Anderson prepares for his first descent to the "Star of Scotland," oft-named gambling ship that rats away on the bottom of the Santa Monica bay.

Closely examining a former table of chance Jack Reynolds slowly moves his underwater light, searching for mementos of yesteryear.



turned bearing scallop-encrusted articles—trophy reminders of our excursion.

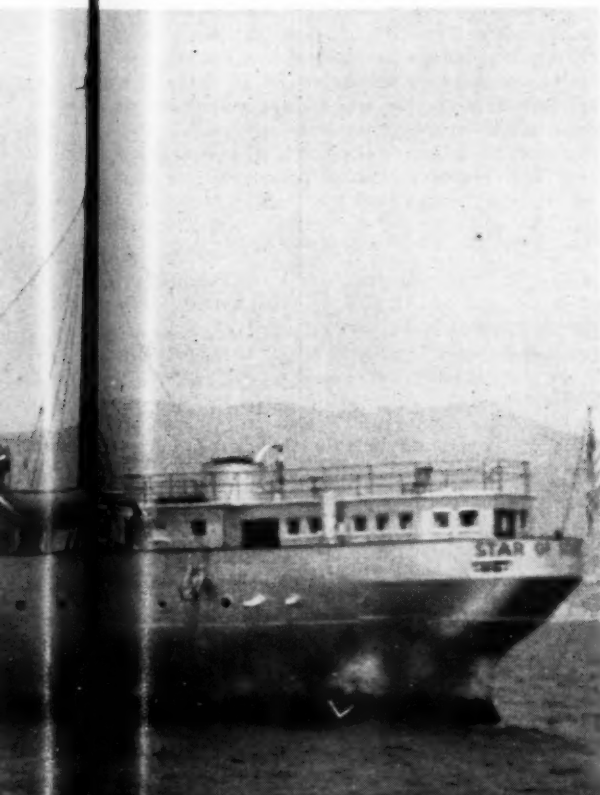
Propped against a hatch (and shivering in the icy morning breeze), I watched them disappear a second time into the sea—taking cameras. Periodically, expended flashbulbs popped to the surface around the *Sans Peur*. Time dragged by with welcome interruptions when the divers appeared to strap on fresh tanks of air and report their various finds.

By midafternoon all film aboard had been used. We started back toward shore, your correspondent handling the helm—the first work I'd done all day. While Anderson and Reynolds "skinned" out of their suits, we retraced our course around the breakwater and, reaching the pier, made presents to waiting friends of the spoils retrieved from the long-fallen *Star*.

This pleasant outing might have been the end of my story had I not discovered, while talking with several old

(Continued on Page 41)

## R SCOTLAND





Local California waters with a sunflower star. Photo by Bill Nelson.

When asked to submit an autobiography of my diving activities I found myself a bit surprised because the usual person requested to do so has been an avid spearfisherman. I am afraid that my pleasures run more to the less spectacular ones of underwater sightseeing and photography. I have long been interested in aquatic activities such as swimming and water polo, but it is only within the last five years that I have had an active interest in diving. Since part of my duties as a university professor involve the teaching of biophysics, it is not unexpected that I would turn my interest to questions of this nature. About two and a half years ago, a number of us in the Bay Area organized a diving club, of which I was made president, and since then we have been having regular outings in the Carmel area. A number of you may be familiar with our weekly paper, *The Seafarer*, which I wrote for the first two years of the club's history. Our club is a bit unusual in that it contains mostly sightseers (on a typical day one might see twenty of our Aqua-Lungs on the beach but only one speargun). Part of this may have been due to my influence. I have carried these interests over to the academic field in which some of my engineering students have given consideration to better ways for communication under water, and at the medical school in San Francisco, we have considered improvements in the regulators for Scuba.

When I go on a trip I usually have my underwater contact lenses in my pocket so I can dive effectively if I see a likely spot even though I do not have my mask and other equipment along. When I know that I am going to cold water, I take along my wet suit, which type I use not only because fellow club members originated it, but because I find it convenient and quite comfortable. Even the transportation of equipment can have its amusing side. For example, in Cuba when the government baggage inspector opened the case to my underwater movie camera, he immediately slammed the cover shut and, with a terrified expression, called for his superior to inspect this "infernal machine." It took quite a while to pacify him.

When asked my favorite place to dive, I am always at a loss since various areas each have their own peculiar charm. As yet, I cannot comment on diving in Europe though I intend to spend half of next year there. Probably the most beautiful and pleasant places are the tropical waters. In particular, I have much enjoyed diving in the Virgin Islands and also at Bikini and Eniwetok atolls in the Marshall Islands. Practically no plant life is to be seen but diverse kinds of coral, etc., abound. The gaily colored tropical fish

# Autobiography of a Skin Diver

**Professor Stuart Mackay, Ph. D.**

University of California

are similarly dazzling at both places and the main difference that I noticed between the Caribbean and South Pacific areas was the great profusion of lovely waving sea fans in the former, while the giant killer clams, a yard or more across, could be seen in the Pacific. Though I have always thought it as a shame to "poke holes in the poor fish," especially when they are often so tame that one can reach out and touch them, I have been bitten by the shell collecting bug. It is a source of amusement to my friends that I am having some difficulty storing the five cubic yards of shells that I sent back from Bikini Atoll this last summer. Part of this space was devoted to several of the large clam shells. For those of you who have never seen these in the living form, the giant clams sit without attachment, often in 7 to 70 feet of water, their white shells partially open. But the most striking thing is the beautiful mantle of the animal which is allowed to project over the shells and which is quite often a deep purple color with fluorescent blue and green spots. Those that weigh in the vicinity of 150 pounds, in the water, can be tied up by a rope to an inner tube and floated over to a waiting boat; those that weigh three or four times that much are easier with a hoist. (I optimistically swam to the surface with a hundred pounder in my arms but the effort threw cramps into both legs causing me to drop him.) The spines on the sea urchins there range all the way from 1/16 inch to 3/4 inch in diameter.

Giant sea turtles are to be seen both in these equatorial waters and farther north in Hawaii. In these warmer waters one is often surrounded by literally thousands of brilliantly colored fish that give the impression that one is swimming in one of the more fantastic tanks at some large aquarium. Often these astoundingly colored fish are practically the size of the diver. For this comfortable warmth and beauty in the tropics, one pays by suffering the presence of the large sharks which are often several times as big as the diver in all respects. An acquaintance this last summer had the calf of his leg removed in one rapid unprovoked swoop by one of these fish. On several occasions, in a certain period, nervous sharks made passes at working divers and drove them from the water. I often carried a home made "shark billy" for fending them off. But in general, the large sharks merely circle a few times and go on their way, and it should be mentioned that this previously mentioned gentleman was swimming along the surface when the shark shot up from the base of a coral head and performed his deed.

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From Pacific equatorial waters a 100-lb. clam shell (*Tridacna gigas*).

But there is also much to be said for diving in cooler water. In the California area we do not have the corals and gaudy fishes but we do have the kelp jungle in which to play. Most divers in this area are very casual about the seaweed, but I personally find it to form a rather beautiful underwater wonderland. One of my diving companions says that the rising columns of seaweed remind him of the pillars in a cathedral and he is often found contentedly lying on his back on the bottom watching the fish and other divers go by. I share his opinion and am always interested in the sight of the bright red sea anemones with white polka dots, the beautiful purple starfish often having over twenty arms, the amusing antics of the various crabs, the beautiful giant jellyfish that are so often tens of feet long, etc.

A few of these fascinating creatures I bring to my home where they live in a refrigerated salt water aquarium. For about two years now an assemblage of sea urchins, sea anemones, starfish, hermit crabs (some of which have been persuaded to take up an existence in transparent glass houses that I blew for them), fish, chitrons, nudibranchs, polychete worms and other assorted shelled creatures have been persuaded to live there in harmony. They all are satisfied to eat brine shrimp and only seldomly each other. But the pet of the aquarium is a small octopus, known as Little Ink Pot, who can perform the rather surprising feat of holding on to the glass wall with five arms while he simultaneously catches three brine shrimp in three different directions with his other three arms. He then folds them into his mouth and turns a contented brown color. Yes, I find much pleasure in viewing the ocean . . . I leave the animals more or less alone and hope they will continue to do the same for me. In the meantime, I'm very happy that I know some of the science and practice of diving so I can perform these explorations with safety. ➤

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## DIVERS

## DEEP

## FREEZE

(Continued from  
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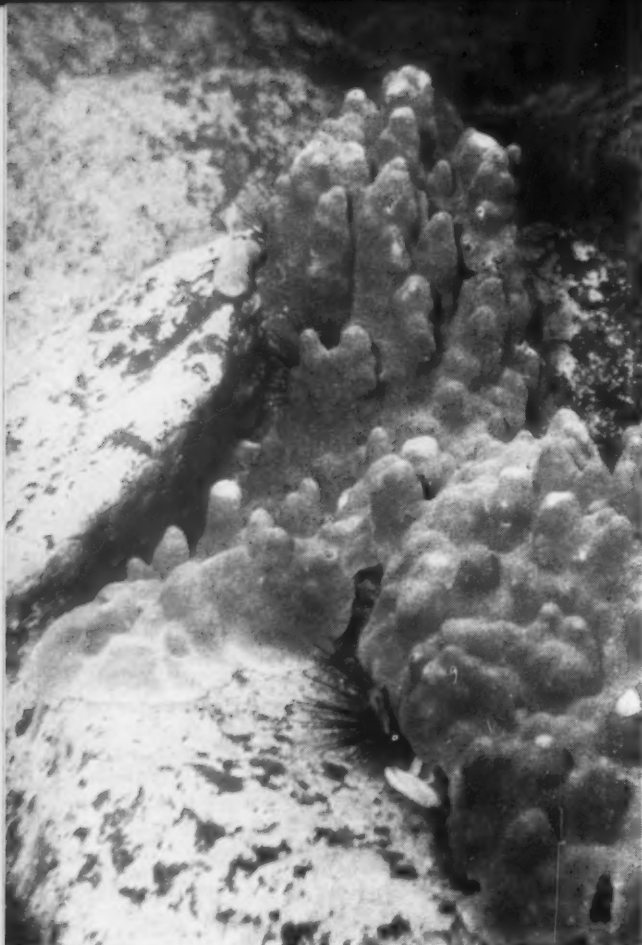
egg, which looked as if it had been fried. When we tried to break the second egg, it refused to crack but throwing it on the floor, broke it into many pieces. The grape shattered, the tomato was as hard as a rock and the banana refused to peel. About that time, the loud speaker announced that we had exceeded our limit for the first entry and should enter the anteroom, which we were happy to do. When we stepped out of the door and the outside air hit our cold surfaces, the moisture in the air immediately condensed and froze.

The regulators were again dipped in water and we re-entered the cold room. Still no difficulty in breathing so after a few minutes, we repeated the process until our regulators were literally saturated with ice. Through all of this, neither of us experienced the slightest difficulty in breathing, although by now our air had chilled down to the point where those tiny particles no longer felt good in striking the insides of our mouths and throats.

When we were finally asked by the loud speaker if we were ready to conclude our test, we tried to reply by a finger circle, but found that not only were our fingers hurting from the cold, but we could not bend them due to the ice and cold that had frozen our gloves. It had been so interesting to watch the formation of ice on our regulators, that neither of us had recognized that we had become thoroughly cold. We agreed on leaving the room and entered the comparative warmth of the ante-room at just above zero.

When we had arrived at Perfection, each of us had remarked of our chill in street clothes. Although the outside temperature was the same as when we had arrived, in getting out of our exposure gear, we felt curiously warm. While we were dressing, someone remarked that we had been in the cold room over 40 minutes. Someone else remarked that although fresh water froze at 32 degrees, sea water froze at 27.5 degrees and so on down the scale, each naming a liquid that froze at a lower temperature. . . . Turpentine at 14 above zero, water completely saturated with salt (NaCl) at minus 4 degrees, linseed oil -4, glycerine -40, chloroform -83 and so on. We were pleased to go on silently dressing since the test had been entirely satisfactory to us.

We of Dacor were certain that no diver would swim in water much below freezing temperatures. We were equally certain that when a diver surfaced into air of any temperature down to 83 degrees below zero, his Dacor lung would function satisfactorily if he re-entered the water. We had proven this fact by actual test so we need no longer wonder about our slide rule computations. When we see divers holding to icy surfaces in bitter cold air, we know their units will work when they re-enter the stillness of the bright underwater world beneath the ice. Their big problem is to be sure they have no failures in their personal mechanism. ➤



## *Three Day Flying Trip to . . .*

# BAY OF ANGELS

By **BEV MORGAN**

The building vibrated as the large compressor pumped the row of storage tanks to their capacity. Over the roar of the machinery, Bill shouted, "Don't forget anything, Morgan."

At last it was time to depart! All the diving equipment was loaded in the station wagon; the underwater guns protruding from between the air cylinders. No time to recheck the gear now. "Aloha, Bill, hold it down 'til Monday." I squeezed behind the wheel, swung into the afternoon traffic, and sped away from our diving equipment company in Redondo.

Bill Meistrell had the dubious pleasure of handling the business for three days while his brother, Bob and I enjoyed a weekend of diving in Mexico. Lowell Thompson, a well known diver from Spokane, Washington had invited us to fly to Bahia de Los Angeles on the Gulf side of Lower California.

"Are you sure all this gear won't overload the plane?" I asked Lowell. He assured me it would not, but I was still uneasy about it.

We fastened our safety belts as Lowell pressed the Bonanza starter. A short whine and the engine burst into life. We taxied to the far entrance of the runway. With some 600 pounds of gear and three persons, Lowell wanted all the runway possible for take off. His right hand spun the throttle open as the plane hurtled down the strip. Suddenly the jolting stopped as the wheels left the ground. A

flip of a switch, and the landing gear indicator pointed to "up", as the altimeter began a steady climb.

Lowell set the auto-pilot at 8000 ft. I watched the coast-line pass, remembering the hard drives I had made along the highway between Los Angeles and San Diego. As we approached La Jolla, we dropped to 500 ft. to check the water. The Scripps Canyon was clear. We could see the two North branches where they started near shore; the deepness of the canyon turning the water from light green to deep blue.

Our plane skimmed across the border and landed at the Tijuana Airport. It is necessary to check into Mexico if you intend to go beyond the border towns. Our visas were stamped by the Mexican immigration officer, and once again we were airborne.

We crossed over and flew along the gulf coast, inspecting the coves and islands that stretch along Lower California. Lowell turned the throttle, increasing our speed, as the fleeting rays of the sun cast longer shadows across the Gulf. Bahia de Los Angeles, the Bay of the Angels—We were now above this "Land of a Thousand Islands."

There was still some time before darkness, so we circled several islands looking for good diving areas. The water was a beautiful emerald green, with not a ripple of wind, surge, or currents. Our excitement and anticipation of the next day's diving was very high as we approached the small air strip.

The runway was in the shade of the late afternoon sun, so we did not notice the amphibious "Widgeon" landing until we, too, were in the shade. We circled, giving the other plane time to land and leave the runway.

We set down and taxied to the ranch house. As we neared, a smiling man directed us to a parking place. I unstrapped myself, opened the door, and climbed out.

"Welcome to Bahia de Los Angeles," greeted the fellow. This was Senor Diaz, our host at "Casa Diaz." He is the only person at the Bahia that can speak English, besides the guests. We found during our stay that Senor Diaz was the perfect host, never resting until everything was in order, day or night.

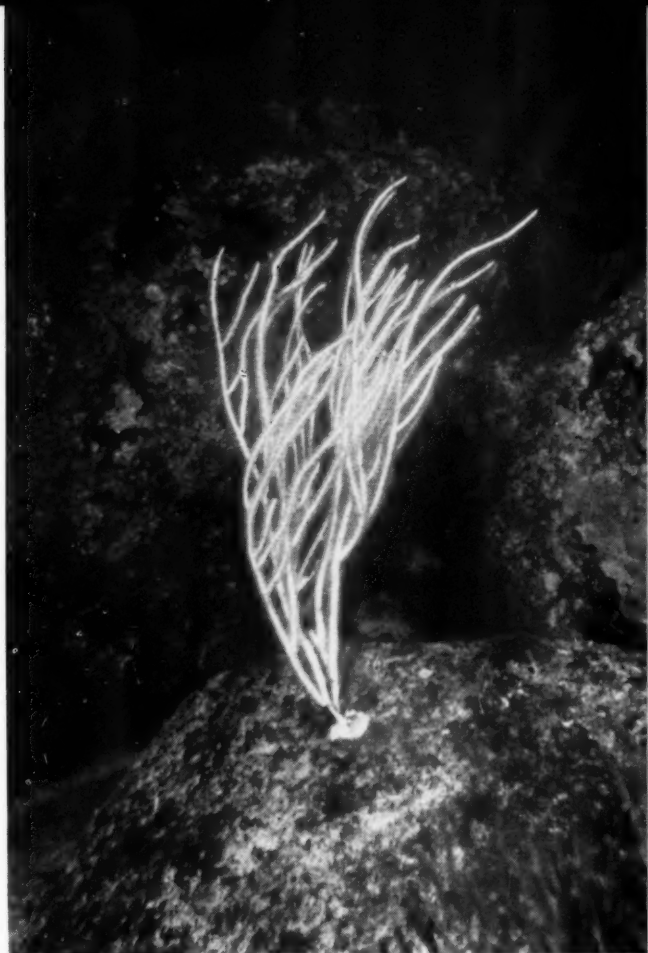
He showed us to our rooms. We were amazed at the modern facilities: plumbing, running water, electric lights, fiber-glassed plywood boats, and 25 horse outboards.

We unpacked the plane, laying the equipment out for use for the next day. Then we started to the dining room for chow. As we passed the "Widgeon", I recognized a friend Dr. Raymond Gilmore. I was on an expedition from Scripps Institution of Oceanography with him in 1954. He explained that there were no divers with them on this trip; they were observing whales. One of his party was doing research on "tortavas" (Mexican White sea bass). He told us of a 200 pound fish, landed two days before by a turtle spearmen. This was added fuel to our anxiety of the next day.

The stars were still visible in the early morning twilight when we dressed. After breakfast we decided to go to the south group of islands in the bay. A jeep was parked by our quarters, with at least fifteen Mexican children standing by to load our gear. Getting the gear in the jeep was easy, even getting all of the kids into the jeep was not bad, and finally, Lowell, Bob, and I got aboard.

We were assigned a boat with two engines, and a guide (who could not speak English). After some motions and pointing, we were under way. It took nearly an hour to get to the first island. It was like all the other terrain here, barren and lifeless. We took the water temperature; it was a chilly 58°. Exposure suits were donned, breathing equipment checked, and over the side we went.

The barren landscape vanished. Bright green coral heads were everywhere, with thousands of small fish swimming in them. Gulf Grouper were lurking in the shadows, and many types of fish, new to me, were inspecting our arrival. Upon more careful inspecting, I noticed the green coral heads were all between 10 to 30 foot, none deeper or shall-



lower. The bottom dropped off steep here, as everywhere we dived in the Bahia. I was to find out later.

I tried to get close to a fair sized grouper for a shot, but could not stalk him with my air bubbles scaring him at each breath. We cut the dive short, deciding to use the first day for reconnaissance.

As we started for the next island, Bob noticed a low lying reef to the north. We indicated the direction to our guide, who promptly steered for the reef. We looked over the side as we approached. The water was very clear here,

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Morgan's Rolleimarine captured these lobster sheds and the peaceful horned shark during their underwater excursions in the Bay of Angels.

## BAY OF ANGELS

(Continued from Page 35)

with 50 to 60 foot visibility.

The three of us jumped in. Soon we had several 30 pound groupers boated. Then, Bob speared a larger grouper, which swam away with his detachable head. Then Lowell had the same experience. I decided to get my power-head and breakaway gear. With this heavier gun, Lowell and I dropped over a ledge to about 100 foot, in the hopes of seeing a large fish. About 30 seconds later, Lowell indicated he was going on reserve and was starting up. I communicated that I would follow as soon as I looked under the next ledge.

I eased over the ledge and looked. Glaring back at me, not moving, was an enormous turtle. I have had no previous experience with turtles, so I did not know whether to spear or grab him. I decided to spear him to assure the catch. I fired at the shell, just in-board of the neck. There was no sound of the power head. The shaft dropped from the shell without penetrating. The startled turtle lunged toward me and then veered to the left. I swam toward him, knowing if he got up speed, I could not catch him. I managed to get one hand under his shell just behind the head, and the other hand on the rear of his shell. With my gun tucked between one arm and my body, and the shaft trailing some 20 foot below, I aimed Mr. Turtle toward the surface. Occasionally he would swim, but I had to do most of the kicking to gain the surface. Finally I surfaced, yelled for the boat, and it took three of us to lift the turtle in. Later, we found it weighed 220 pounds.

We returned to Casa Diaz for lunch. Again the children met us and helped carry our catch from the boat. During our meal, we discussed the morning's dive. Senor Diaz told us this was the bad season for fish; the spring and summer being the best.

During our dives, we noticed lobster very similar to our Pacific Spiny Lobster. I remembered that Ken Norris of Marineland had explained to us that there were reports of Northern lobster and sheepshead fish in that area. When I asked Diaz about this, he told us that this type of lobster was seen here from time to time, and many dead lobster were washing ashore now. The lobster back home had finished shedding recently, so I thought the shells here were probably what Senor Diaz thought to be "dead" lobster. We told him we would catch some lobster that afternoon.

The guide shut down the engine as the bow slid ashore on the northernmost island in the Bahia. We were in an almost land locked bay. The water

was clear and still. The green coral heads were populated by beautiful, small blue fish. I took a "Rollie" over to photograph several of these fish. Lowell found some lobster and was bringing an armful to the boat. He excitedly called to Bob and me to come to the boat.

The lobster were exactly the same species as our own Palos Verdes breed, but Lowell said their personalities were different. All three of us went down to search for lobster, but we soon became engrossed in spearfishing. We asked Lowell about the difference in the personality of these lobster later. He swore that the lobster were out in the open, and as he approached, they charged him as if attacking. We cast him a doubting eye and jumped in for some snorkeling.

Bob shouted from about 50 feet away to bring the boat over him. I swam to his side to see what was up, as Lowell swam to the boat to arouse our guide, who was enjoying a siesta. Bob dived about 20 feet and pointed to a large, hollow coral head. I dropped next to it and peered into its gloomy interior. There was a small, but terrible looking fish that appeared to be walking, on four legs, across the roof of the coral head.

While I made repeated dives to watch the fish, Bob explained to Lowell, and they filled one of our waterproof bags with water. Then Bob and I dived together, made sure the fish was still there, then we broke the coral head loose from the bottom and turned it over. The strange creature changed its color to blend with the coral and, thinking itself hidden, did not move. I thought to myself that this surely must be some new species of fish . . . if only we could capture it. I pulled the emergency inflater on my suit after obtaining a good grip on the heavy coral head. Puff! And I felt the suit expanding, lifting me and my burden to the surface, Bob steadying our rise. Carefully we poured the contents of the coral into the rubber bag. The tension was over, we had the fish. Our guide (his name was Gordo) was wide mouthed, staring into the bag. He obviously had never seen such a thing before. The day's diving had tired us all by now, so we headed back for supper.

As soon as we landed, we located Senor Diaz and had him look at our fish. No, he had never seen anything like it. We decided to try to keep it alive and get it to Marineland.

As we talked, a plane flew in low and prepared to land. It was Dean Holt, Lowell's brother, who lives in San Diego. He and a doctor friend of his were in for some diving and fishing.



Various catches made by the divers in the Bay of Angels. Meistrell, top pic, speared the largest grouper of the trip . . . Morgan and Bob display other species of fish at Casa Diaz . . . bottom pic proves that the California Sheepshead and Spiny Lobster do inhabit the waters of the Gulf of California.

We helped unload his equipment, inviting him to dive with us the next morning.

We stood compressor watches that evening, filling our bottles and splashing water into the container with the fish, in hopes of keeping enough oxygen in the water to allow it to survive.

I awoke first the next morning to reload the cameras with film. Lowell was shooting 16 mm color with a Bell and Howell "DX" model, while I was using a Rolleiflex for surface shots and another Rollei in a Rolleimarine case for underwater stills.

Two boats were used this morning. Dean's friend wanted to troll, so he took a smaller boat by himself. The wind picked up some, making the ride out lumpy. We anchored just in the lee of the southernmost point of the Bahia. Here the cliffs drop vertically into the water, except for a ridge that makes the point itself. This ridge slowly drops into the water, promising a good reef for fishing. I reluctantly left my gun behind, taking only a camera. Dean and Lowell planned to dive together, so Bob and I began a descent. We dropped to 150 foot. Our visibility here was only 20 feet. After cautiously inspecting several holes, we began our ascent up the side of the reef. At 80 foot, we swam close to a large cave. Two lobsters were sitting near the opening, their feelers extended in our direction. I begin to move toward them, and Bob, seeing what I was doing, followed. When we were about five feet away, both lobsters began to advance, waving their feelers wildly. The closer we got, the faster they came. We grabbed the lobsters with ease, as they flapped and fought with a ferocity uncomparable to our local lobster. I held my victim tightly, but Bob set his back down and released it. As soon as it was released, it renewed its attack on Bob, advancing and waving its feelers.

Not wishing to waste any more time, Bob grabbed the bug and we continued our ascent. At ten foot we hesitated for our seven to ten minute decompression. I noticed a crevice loaded with lobster at this depth. None of the lobster were moving. I continued to watch as I decompressed, still no movement. These must be just shells.

Each year the lobster completely renews its entire outer shell, even the eyes. Along Southern California, the lobster "shed" during August and September. They stop eating, retire to a protected hole and await their time. I have watched a lobster shed, and hope some day to photograph the process. First, the front half of the shell hinges forward, then the animal withdraws his feelers and legs. This completes the front undressing; all that re-

mains is the struggling out of the tail. The new lobster is softer than a fish. He stays in seclusion until his shell hardens enough to protect him. The old shell, left behind, is a perfect, hollow replica of the lobster to the last detail. This is what the Mexicans see washing ashore, thinking them to be "dead" lobster.

I photographed these lobster while finishing out the decompression. Then, I swung the camera to a beautiful sea fan. It was snow white, with a seemingly glow to it. The glow, I soon discovered, was from the effect of thousands of tiny animals protruding from pin point holes in the fan. Bob and I soon ran low on air and returned to the boat. Dean and Lowell had remained shallow, so their air lasted much longer. After they returned, we ran the boat to a small cove.

Here, we attempted to capture some small tropical fish in bottles. It was hard work, but we managed to obtain a few. The diver holds the bottle in one hand and drives the fish into it with a stick.

Lowell let out a whoop! He had found another of the ugly fish. We captured it in much the same manner as the day before. Then, Bob yelled from the midst of a splashing, foaming turmoil. He fought it to the boat. This turtle was only half the size of the one we got yesterday, but it was full of fight. As we boated the catch, Bob was telling us excitedly of the hole with ten turtles in it. We went with him, but he could not find it again. This was our chance to have a little fun, so I looked at Bob seriously, saying, "How do you feel?" Lowell and Dean caught on and said, "You look a little punchy, Bob. Deep diving catching up with you?" Immediately Bob began defending himself, "Really, there was a hole with ten turtles in it—no kidding." We laughed our way back to the boat, and returned to Casa Diaz.

Next morning, we bid adieu to our host, lifted into the sky, and began our homeward journey. I aimed the camera toward the islands in a last attempt to record the memories we were to take home.

Four hours later found us fighting our way through traffic, back in our fast moving, sometimes regretfully, civilized world. The ugly fishes lived, and were quite rare, as evidenced by the excitement shown by Dave Brown and Ken Norris at Marineland.

Bob and I drove Lowell back to the airfield. As he climbed into the plane, he told us he was going to fly East to purchase an amphibious plane to further facilitate his diving. Perhaps I may be able to pass along many more stories of good diving areas. »

## MORE NEW PRODUCTS



HERE'S A CLOSE-UP of the new gauge that shows you underwater how much air you have left in your tank so you can know when to turn back and avoid tiring, surface swims back to your point of entry with heavy, empty tanks.

Called the "SeAir Gauge", it is available at most sporting goods dealers' diving departments.

The unit consists of an "O" ring assembly, hose and an air gauge which is readable underwater. The whole affair can be easily installed by any lung diver on equipment using standard medical valves and yokes. Price \$19.95—Mar-Mac Industries, 1453 Revere Ave., Hayward, California.

HEALTHWAYS SENSATIONAL new Cressi Deluxe Rondine Floating Fins . . . made in Italy only and imported by Healthways exclusively. The new sensational super-fast Rondine fin that floats . . . never before seen in America . . . made of the world's finest quality blue gum rubber . . . unbelievably lightweight with amazing fin tip rigidity. The ultimate in fins for the discriminating professional! Retail \$11.95.

DIMITRI REBIKOFF ON TELEVISION—Monday, February 4th—7:30-8:00 p.m. EST Under the Mediterranean "Bold Journey"

Monday, March 11th—7:30-8:00 p.m. EST The Red Sea "Bold Journey"

TECHNIQUES OF SKIN DIVING—filmed over a two year period off Catalina Island, California. Produced by Mart Toggweiler, skipper, photographer, underwater explorer. Story continuity is maintained by Ron Merker, a top notch skin diver and spearfisherman, teaching a pretty girl, Carol (now Mrs. Merker) how to enjoy the use of underwater breathing apparatus. Underwater sequences of the couple include . . . close ups of a cancer crab, sheephead, garibaldi, horned shark, moray eel, abalone, spearing of a blue shark, white sea bass and a giant black sea bass. The film was designed to be instructional as well as entertaining. Techniques of Skin Diving—is 16mm, 375 feet, runs for 10 minutes, sound and color. For sale or rental. Distribution to schools and libraries by: Paul Cox, Coastal Visual Education Co., 5620 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28, California.

### CALIFORNIA ABALONE SEASON IS CLOSED

The Department of Fish and Game of California would like to remind all skin divers that the season on Abalone runs from March 16 through January 14.



Fred Mase and Al Tlam unload items from the ship "Madeira" which lies at the base of the 80 foot high cliff in background at a depth of approximately 40 to 60 feet under Lake Superior.

## Minnesota Divers find Action . . .

# THE MEDEIRA

By

Bob Travis Keagle

Photographer

*This account of "The Madeira" was written by Bob Travis Keagle, photo journalist for "The Minnesota Skin Divers Club." Bob is an industrial commercial photographer living in the Minneapolis area and has been actively skin diving the past 16 years, accompanied by his wife Phyllis and their little divers. Bob spends most of his week ends hunting carp in Minnesota's 10,000 lakes.—Ed.*

"You ought to see the size of this one, over a block long" cried Skip as he swam around the Split Rock Point on the north shore of Lake Superior. Cully, Emil, Al, and Luther were just approaching this area and thought Skip had spotted another Lake Trout, bigger than any previously seen in our earlier dives. Skip's fish turned out to be the ship the "Madeira," sunk in a storm November 30, 1905 and was indeed

over a block long, 600 feet to be exact. This iron ore carrier was now lying in 40 feet of water just below us and less than 50 feet away from the base of a rock cliff that towered up and out over the water to a height of 80 feet.

We switched from our snorkels to our lung mouthpieces and started down to explore our find. The water temperature of Lake Superior on this Sunday in July 1955 was 44° F. and the visibility was nearly 100 feet. Five other divers and myself belonging to the Minnesota Skin Divers Club swam down to the bow section of the "Madeira" and secured our lines, holding inner tubes to twisted wreckage and rails on the deck.

Teaming up in a buddy system of two divers each we continued to "stake out our claims." Emil, the grandpa of our group, was busily removing brass

wing nuts that secured the 1 inch thick glass portholes on the bow. No trouble was encountered in removing these wing nuts after their 50 years of submersion, but then Emil received a shocking surprise when he found himself looking in the window and seeing a face looking back. This face was covered with a oval mask and had a lung mouthpiece inserted in it and belonged to Al Tlam. It seems Al had found a deck opening and swam through it and spotted Emil working on the outside, and then remembering his "buddy" decided to join up. It was at this point that Emil nearly gave up diving and looked for a different hobby.

Cully and Skip had found themselves a deck winch that was over 6 feet high and the drums were still wound up with many hundreds of feet of 2 inch wire rope cable. The main drive gear is about 8 inches across and over 6

feet high and it operated on steam power from the boiler room. Their find is safe as it is too big to salvage or remove from the deck. It is now referred to as the "Skip-Cully" winch and it is one of seven that they have found.

Luther and myself teamed up to explore a section of the ship that has been partially ripped open by the ice and wave action over the past 50 years. A lot of small pieces of debris and easy to hoist were lying about in this 25 foot depth.

On a casual observation it might appear that Luther would have difficulty because of the physical requirements of skin diving. It was his misfortune to be stricken with polio in 1948 and now no longer has use of his leg muscles. Once Luther is "water borne" he no longer needs his crutches and by using hand type swim fins is able to swim along with the rest of us. "Lute" spotted a trophy that he wanted and headed straight for a pile of rocks. Arriving a few seconds later, I noticed that he was trying to free a length of shaft about 1 inch thick, so I proceeded to help him by removing rocks and small pieces of angle iron. A brass worm gear about 12 inches long and 4 inches in diameter came free and Lute had the making of a desk lamp for his study at home. We then proceeded to gather up about 25 feet of steel logging chain for my trophy. I do not "run to the artistic" so my chain is in the trunk of my car to be used for removing my Ford from a Minnesota snow drift this winter.

The north shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota is an ideal diving spot for our entire midwest area. The water is clear, cold and contains lots of old ship wrecks. The three day storm of Nov. 28 thru Nov. 30, 1905 sank 11 ships in the Great Lakes and most of them lie



Minnesota Skin Diving Club members Al Tlam, Luther Bolstad and Emil Rheinhardt ready to go down on the "Madeira." Emil is a grandfather and is active with the group all year round.

just off shore a few hundred feet and can be reached by swimming. The cold water 40° to 55° range requires full dry type rubber suits worn over two suits of woolen underwear and wet or dry type gloves are used depending on the exact water temperature. Caves are numerous but the fish life seems to be rather barren and require a lot of looking as the distances are rather vast.

After an hour of exploring our first sunken ship, we swam to a rock projection at the waters edge back under the overhanging cliff, for a rest and a chance to compare our souvenirs and observations. While we were engaged in a discussion on what to do with all of our salvaged items and how to get them to shore, we were hailed by another member of our club, Fred Mase of Excelsior. Fred had arrived late on this trip and was now approaching us in his yellow life raft powered with a 1 H.P. Evinrude outboard. Now that we had return transportation for a very tired group of six divers, we eagerly waited for Fred to tie up his raft and to tell him of our discovery.

A couple of extra air cylinders were in the raft so one of our stronger divers decided to accompany Fred on his initial dive. After switching air cylinders Fred and Al descended to the "Madeira." The large size air bubbles bursting on the calm surface indicated that these two divers were heading down deep to the ship's stern section. As we use the 38 cu. ft. size cylinders we knew that their deeper diving would be limited to a few minutes. We were then not too surprised to see Fred and Al surface a few feet away after about 15 minutes of being down. Both were out of air,

but "bursting" with news, and details, of the previously unexplored stern sections. They related that the rail section on the main deck was used as a guide to lead them to the rounded stern section 135 feet down from the surface.

It appeared that a sandy silt deposit had buried the ship's propeller but they were able to inspect the rudder. The two traced their names into the silt coated rudder as this was the greatest depth that any diver of the "Minnesota Skin Divers Club" had obtained. A number of port hole windows were marked for future trophies to be salvaged at a later diving date. The return to the surface was back up the other side of the ship, and most of the deck railing appeared to be missing or broken.

Three trips were necessary to transport ourselves, diving gear, and trophies to our camp site on the volcanic rock that borders Lake Superior. Hot drinks and supper prepared by our wives upon our return, climaxed a very successful exploration dive on the "Madeira." It is our intention to dive on an inter-island general cargo freighter that sank in 1928 in less than 100 feet of water and was carrying a cargo of passengers, resort supplies and whiskey. This ship is located on an island in Lake Superior and has not, to our knowledge, ever been visited by skin divers or have any commercial attempts been made to salvage her. This venture should be most interesting as it is a wooden ship nearly 200 feet long, steam powered and should be in good state of preservation due to the cold waters of Lake Superior.



Al Tlam, wearing a 38 cu. ft. cylinder and full diving suit, went inside the ship for his trophies.

# MAINE LOBSTER

(Continued from page 25)

To cover distance in a hurry, lobsters propel themselves through the water backwards with strong flips of their tails, claws extended and streamlined in front of them. If a diver is quick enough, this is the ideal time to grab. However, a lobster cannot be induced to take flight in this manner unless, when caught in the open, he realizes the jig is pretty nearly up.

On dark days lobsters can be found crawling around out in the open foraging for food and at these times lobster catching is ideal. It is quite simple to catch them by diving down, holding a hand in front of the lobster to divert his attention, and then grab him around the body shell with the other.

Perhaps the greatest asset in catching lobsters is the ability to move the hands quickly. A diver cannot be hesitant about grabbing. Caught out in the open the lobster will gracefully pivot on his tail, claws open and ready. Motion of the hands must be swift and positive or pinched fingers are sure to result.

Most divers wear gloves when handling lobsters varying from light cotton work gloves to heavy leather gauntlets. Usually when a heavy glove is worn, only one is used due to the fact that handling a gauge is awkward with two gloves. Some of the expert lobster catchers use only their bare hands, but preference seems to be toward cotton work gloves. They are worn not so much for protection from the claws—as even with a heavy glove on, a large lobster could give a diver a severe pinch or crushed finger—as they are to protect the hands from the tail which can inflict bad cuts from the sharp shell sections which close together like scissors each time the lobster flips his tail.

A good subterfuge for luring a lobster out into the open to more easily catch him is to wave something shiny in front of him, even your finger will do. Some divers use another lobster and this often works quite successfully, especially if the entrenched lobster is a large one. Thinking the other lobster is trying to invade his territory, he will come rushing out to drive him off. Lobsters react quickly to any shadow over them and will back into their holes when such conditions prevail.

Search procedures are as varied as are methods of picking up the lobsters. Some divers cruise along on the surface until they see a claw, an antenna or perhaps even the whole lobster exposed,

and then dive down to get him. Others systematically cover the bottom by diving down and peering under patches of kelp and boulders. A big lobster can get into a very small space. Still other enthusiasts turn over every rock they can lift with the end view that there is a lobster under about every rock.

It is inconclusive opinion among most lobster divers that lobster of the same size stay pretty much together. When a diver finds a legal sized one, several more usually are found in the same vicinity.

Best months for lobstering are July, August and September. At this time lobsters are voracious with hunger after having shed their shells. Their new shells are soft and rubbery and consequently they stay well hidden until the shell is hard enough to offer some protection. By staying hidden they also go hungry.

In spite of the myriad ways to prepare lobster, skin divers in Maine seem to feel that the simplest way is the tastiest. Just toss the lobsters in a kettle of briskly boiling salted water—on the beaches many divers cook them in sea water—and boil rapidly for 20 minutes, a little longer if lobsters are larger than two pounds. Melt some butter, pass the lobsters around and start eating. All of the Maine lobster is edible except the shell structure, the claw in the head, and the dark sand vein running down the back of the tail meat. Some people refuse to eat the green liver or the white fat which is an unfortunate mistake. Both are highly seasoned and delicious.

Visiting skin divers must enjoy their Maine lobster by purchasing them from a lobster dealer as only legal residents with valid licenses are allowed to catch them.

As winter cold and gale winds hit the Maine Coasts, lobsters begin moving off into deeper water to get away from turbulence and also to stay with their food supply. Very little undersea life is observed in coastal waters during the winter months, not even skin divers who wisely turn to other pursuits when the water temperature drops into the 30's. But don't think skin divers go without lobster meat during the winter. Some of them quick freeze the lobsters they catch during diving season, others store them live in "pounds" and use their spearfishing skills to feed and fatten the captives. >



Fred Mohl  
Manager of Portable Compressor Sales

## PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED BY THE CORNELIUS COMPANY

Due to increased sales and expanded production, R. T. Cornelius, President of The Cornelius Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, announces several changes in company sales personnel. Robert S. Thompson has been named General Sales Manager for the firm. In his new position he will direct sales activities of the company's three divisions: Portable High Pressure Air Compressors, Aviation Products and the Beverage Equipment Division.

Fred Mohl has been made Manager of Portable Compressor Sales. This division supplies compressors to the United States Navy for charging air breathing tanks worn by Navy frogmen. Both the navy and air force use Cornelius compressors for ground charging pneumatic equipment and tires of combat aircraft. This compressor is also sold to the civilian market for skindivers, fire departments and industrial applications. >



Robert S. Thompson  
General Sales Manager

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

## DICE ON THE BOTTOM

(Continued from Page 31)

"salts" lounging on the pier, the interesting and notorious past of the *Star*.

She was built in British shipyards around 1916 and originally designed for service as a Q-Boat. A miasma of mystery surrounded these boats at the time, since they were designed to combat German submarines during World War I. Christened the *Mistletoe*, she was one of very few Q-Boats to survive the war. Camouflaged to resemble a harmless (and helpless) merchant vessel, she was constructed along sleek lines that almost betrayed her real purpose and power. Her quarter-inch plating of light steel housed the most potent turbine engines then in existence. Below decks, she was loaded with balsa wood and cork—making her almost unsinkable and therefore immune to the deadly kiss of torpedoes. False superstructures and bulkheads concealed a battery of heavy guns. Her speed and maneuverability were rated high for those times. A very surprising lady, indeed.

Upon sighting the innocent looking Q-Boat, German U-Boats would surface, at a distance, and rake her decks with machine-gun fire. Rarely would unsuspecting U-Boat Commanders attempt to sink one of these ships since the Q-Boat was considered a real prize of war.

Aboard the *Mistletoe*, simulated fires (actually smudge pots) were lit, creating a good deal of seeming damage. Her crew furthered the illusion by running wildly, desperately about her decks and pretend they were abandoning her. The U-Boat would then confidently approach and, when it was within point-blank range, the *Mistletoe's* phoney bulwarks were suddenly lowered—her heavy armament blowing the unwary submarine to bits with a thundering broadside. A very effective lady, indeed.

Following the close of the war, she came to this country, was renamed the *Chiapis* and plied between San Francisco and Central America—carrying passengers and freight. Sold again, she was renamed *La Playa Ensenada* and engaged in the fruit trade along the Mexican coast. About now, this sea-going lady's reputation became a bit tarnished when her name was chopped to *La Playa* and she operated as a gambling ship out of Lower California.

Her owners advertised a six-hour "Cruise To Nowhere," taking passengers aboard along the coast, in the afternoon, and steaming out past territorial limits for a costly evening of gambling. Around midnight she would return her now-broke passengers to shore.

Again renamed—*City of Panama*—and

placed under Panamanian registry, she next turned up in Santa Monica Bay in the early 1930's. More "Cruises To Nowhere" were advertised. More suckers greeted joyously and taken for a sea-going ride. Some doubt remains as to whether or not she actually did make any cruises. Public records show all piers were closed at this time. But people clearly remember cruise tickets being sold quite openly along the waterfront. Deprived of her right, legally, to put to sea under her own power, she next became the *Star of Hollywood*—operating along the Southern California coast, and she now had tugs (owned by the gambling chiefs) taking her from port to port. A wily lady indeed.

While gambling of all kinds was the main attraction according to Tom Hernage, a pier worker, prostitution aboard ship helped fill the overflowing coffers. Clients with ready cash could just name their vice or pleasure. The *Star* had them all.

The authorities, meanwhile, hadn't been sitting on their hands. They tried every known legal gimmick—including legislation requiring tourists to obtain visas before boarding the ship—to halt the gambling operations. Not until a murder occurred were they able to quell the racket aboard the *Star*.

Deprived of her profitably illegal career, the ship (now renamed the *Texas*) lay quietly at anchor for several years at San Pedro. In 1940, she was leased by Captain Charles S. Arnold. Captain Arnold renamed her the *Star of Scotland* (after a four-masted schooner he once owned) and converted her into a floating nightclub, offering a hundred staterooms and boasting huge dance floors. An added attraction was fishing from stages attached to the *Star's* hull on each side.

And so the once-courageous and once-shoddy lady spent the last years of her above-surface life. Captain Arnold and his wife, Vesta, lived aboard her and operated her until the morning she plunged to her last anchorage on the rocky bottom of the Santa Monica Bay.

For a short time she was a menace to shipping since her mainmast almost touched the surface; but the Coast Guard remedied this by blasting the mast from its base. The lady's last contact with the world of man had been severed—until curious divers went down to visit her and explore her heavily encrusted remains.

And there she lies today—an interesting excursion for any diver who is willing to descend the 90 feet to her decks. And who knows? With her intriguing past, this tarnished lady, the *Star of Scotland*, may still hold a souvenir or two for you. »

## AROUND THE SOUND

By PETER PUGET

The diving clubs in the Pacific Northwest have been very active in the last month. The Pile Divers of Port Townsend have discovered a new wreck. It is over 200 feet long and the hull still intact. It is in about 35 to 40 feet of water. The spearfishing around it is supposed to be great. The Pile Divers offer an invitation to any club in the area to come up and see the new wreck.

The Puget Sound Mudsharks have tried something a little different in this area. They have been purchasing old cars and planting them in the sound. The Mudsharks are very interested to see how this experiment works. This could be the solution to the spearfishing in the years to come, when there are too many divers and not enough diving spots.

We would like to congratulate Ben Noble of the Puget Sound Mudsharks whose underwater movie was featured on the television show "You Asked For It" on December 16th.

The Northwest Divers, one of the newer clubs in the area, was called upon by Air Force to help search for a Jet that crashed off Hatt Island above Seattle. Four days were spent in search of the airplane with little luck. It was finally located in 60 feet of water where it was brought up from its watery grave. The pilot had escaped by bailing out.

The Sheriff S.C.U.B.A. Divers, a club devoted to volunteer work for the King County Sheriffs have been organized for a little over a year. In that time they have recovered the bodies of 16 people who have lost their lives in different ways on the water. This club is looking for new members who can volunteer some time. Check with Joe Dollinger at 14643 11th. S.W., Seattle, Washington. His phone number is LO. 5170, for further information.

On February 16th, the Y.M.C.A. Divers and the Puget Sound Mudsharks will hold a combination dance. All divers are invited to attend. Further information may be obtained by getting in touch with Puget Sound Divers Co.

The Puget Sound Mudsharks are starting preparations to organize an Octopus wrestling championship. It has been tentatively set up for some time in March. The Mudsharks would like to hear from the other clubs in the area, and hear their ideas on the subject.

We will close this month's report by saying, the waters have been clear with 20 to 50 feet visibility, and cold a brrrrr 44 degrees. »



## DUCK FEET FIND NEW HOME

... the inside story of how Duck Feet are *not* made in sand!

Old favorite Duck Feet flippers have been around for a long time, and from the looks of things, they will be with us a lot longer and in ever increasing numbers. How they found their new home makes an interesting story.

The fins were invented and manufactured by Arthur Brown, under the name Spearfisherman, first in Laguna Beach, California, and later in Huntington Beach, California. Being an expert diver but dissatisfied with the kind of fin he could buy, "Brownie" as he is known, went to work on a design for a better flipper. His design was a symmetrical swim fin, and used pure, bouncy, power-giving gum rubber for the fine with an integrally-molded heel strap of gum. His design incorporated a system of very deep ribs, and he wanted the flipper to float. It turned out to be a big order.

He found that all was not sweetness and light when he tried to build his pet fin, for it required a unique, and strictly unorthodox method of manufacture which had never been done before, and which no one has ever been able to exactly duplicate since. He worked for several years to perfect his manufacturing method, and as a result his first fins did not appear for civilian use in quantity until about 1946.


They were a hit with amateurs and experts alike. Recently, Duck Feet were proven the number one fins in the nation in an impartial test conducted by a skin diving club. The U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Teams, who can use any fin they want, show preference for Duck Feet. For the past few months, a group of young, successful businessmen have been watching the market potential for Duck Feet. These men were interested to note that with Duck Feet, the demand far outstripped existing production. The men made up the Board of Directors of Pacific Moulded Product Co., of Los Angeles, which company is eminently successful in the manufacture of precision molded rubber products for all segments of industry. Being avid sportsmen themselves, these men have grown up with the sport of spearfishing; in fact, the president of Pacific Moulded had his first skin diving experience in Honolulu way back when the best equipment available was some wooden goggles and a bamboo sling spear. It was only natural that these men should recognize skin diving as a great sport, a growing sport, and one for which their company was ideally suited to manufacture products.

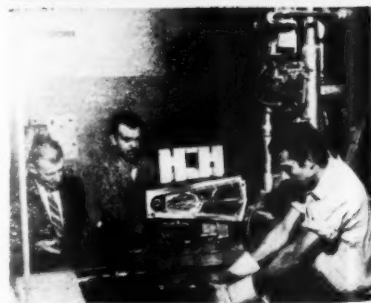
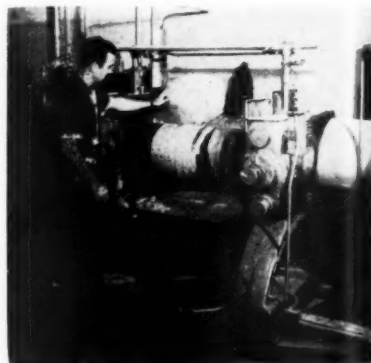
Pacific Moulded made their entry into the business with the acquisition of the assets of Swimaster which the company set up on a divisional basis so as not to interfere with, but have avail-

able the vast facilities of a million dollar rubber company. A management team for the operation of the new division was selected to handle the problems peculiar to the manufacture and merchandising of surface and underwater swimming equipment. This company through its new division has made rapid strides in the field.

The opportunity came along to buy Spearfisherman, and the secret processes of Art Brown, and the board of Pacific Moulded wasted no time in making the purchase and in adding the well-known Spearfisherman products to their Swimaster Division.

And so, Duck Feet have found a great new home, mated to the Swimaster Division, and backed by the enormous enthusiasm and facilities of the parent company. The original pure gum rubber Duck Feet are now being produced in quantity, still using Mr. Brown's original manufacturing processes, but available also in a new jet black finish as well.

Somone once said that "if you could find out how that guy makes those flippers, you would really have something; but you'll never be able to do it, they are made in molds of sand!" No one knows how this idea ever got started, but a quick look at the accompanying photographs should convince even the skeptics that it takes a lot more than "molds of sand" to make Duck Feet. Just exactly how they are made will have to remain a Swimaster secret. 



Production scenes from "behind closed doors" display portions of manufacturing process for Duck Feet. No sand in sight.



## ANGELFISH HITCHED FOR LIFE

Far, far below the scintillating, sparkling surface of the sunlit oceans there lives a specie of Angelfish whose conjugal faithfulness is carried to the ultimate degree. Here, in the obscurely black depths of great pressures and constant night—it's believed one of the weirdest forms of mating among fishes is to be found.

Being an Angler, the dorsal-fin has been modified into a dangling lure. And, being a deepsea creature, she has phosphorescent organs which gleam in the intense darkness: Whether to signal mates or beckon victims—Ichthyologists have never determined.

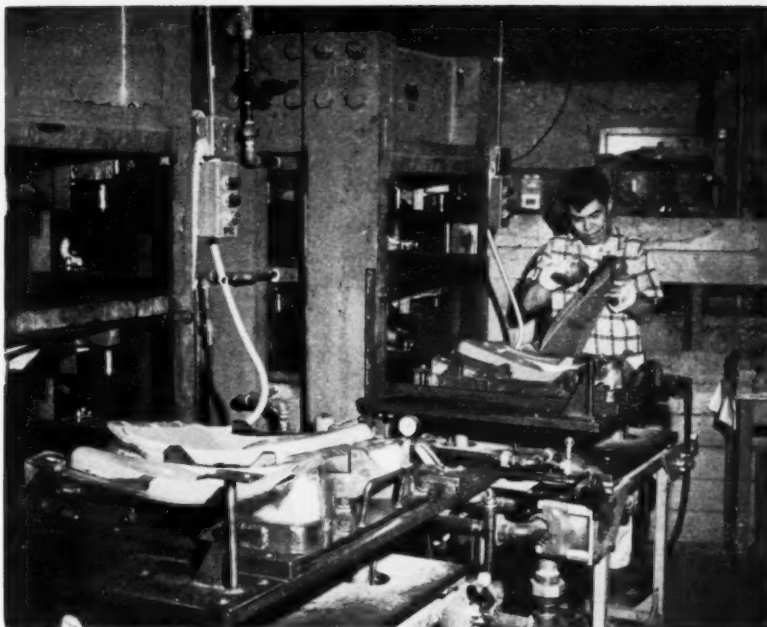
But it is known that she takes parasitic males for mates, and since monogamy among fish is practically nonexistent—the female Angelfish probably accepts several of the much smaller males for lifetime companions.

Since these fish live in complete blackness and their numbers are believed to be comparatively few, the chances of a male finding a mate are not too good... and his chances of losing her (once he has bumped into her) are discouragingly excellent. Consequently, should a male Angelfish luckily find himself a female counterpart, he goes into some immediate (and slightly horrifying) action: He takes her by the throat or some other part of her body... his jaws sink into her flesh... and he just *never lets go again*.

Time undulates by and his skin grows together with her skin. Her blood-vessels connect with his blood-vessels. More time floats by and his mouth degenerates—becoming functionless. Eventually, he is literally one with her.

And so they spend a lifetime... together.

In the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, there is a model of a gruesome couple captured off the coast of England. The female Angelfish is forty inches long. Her devoted husband—four inches in length, and weighing about one-thousandth of



Swim-Fins are molded in various presses like these in Voit's 25th Street Los Angeles plant.

## VOIT RUBBER CO. JOINS A.M.F.

The W. J. Voit Rubber Co., a major producer of underwater swimming accessories, recently joined American Machine and Foundry Co., of New York after a stock transfer of approximately \$4½ million. Voit, with rubber plants in Los Angeles and Portland, is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of AMF and will continue operations and manufacturing as they have since 1923. Other products manufactured by Voit include tread rubber for automobile and truck tires, a wide variety of rubber athletic balls and other rubber goods for the sporting industry.

Voit underwater swimming and skin diving equipment includes a full line of gear for the aquatic sportsman... swim fins, masks, snorkels, lungs, rubber suits, etc. Two-thirds of their gross sales of more than \$12 million is accounted for by their sporting goods

his mate's weight. Although these models, in the Hall of Fishes, indicate a possibility of monogamy on the part of Angelfish—it's more likely to assume the average female "picks up" a number of husbands in her span of life. And she must be quite a girl because they quickly become quite attached to her.

Here, then, are no puny words about "til death us do part." Because even death does not physically render them asunder. However, if she dies—her mate, or mates) also die with her.

There is no divorce rate among the Angelfish. 🐟

line, the balance by industrial products.

This merger of the two large companies will place the Voit Company in the AMF General Products Group which includes other subsidiaries manufacturing consumer products such as bicycles, juvenile wheel products and radial-arm power saws. The Voit management and quality line of products will be unchanged by the merger; they have three plants in Los Angeles and one in Portland, Oregon, a total of more than 331,000 square feet of manufacturing facilities.

The American Machine & Foundry Co. is one of the nation's most diversified companies as it has 31 plants and five research and development laboratories in the United States and Canada. Machinery and equipment made by AMF is widely used in the recreation field, the tobacco industry, the baking industry, the apparel industry, restaurant industry, in defense work, in the guided missile program, the atomic energy field and they have been awarded contracts to make research reactors. ➤



Thousands of rubber balls are serviced through the Voit 12th Street Los Angeles plant daily.

# New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs

Central Branch YMCA, 125 Main Street  
Orange, New Jersey

By LEE GOTTLIEB

During the past three months the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs has been endeavoring to contact all the independent skin divers scattered throughout the state and have them form or join existing clubs. The venture, although incomplete as yet, is highly successful. The data obtained from questionnaires sent to all these divers was very helpful in determining the extent of diving activities in the state.

A committee is presently in the process of sectioning New Jersey into geographical regions. Key figures in each region will be sent a list of divers in their respective areas and asked to form one or more clubs, whichever will be more convenient. A Council committee will be at the disposal of any group wishing instruction or advice in forming a club or other matters pertaining to the sport. As soon as a club is able to meet the qualifications for membership to the Council it will be asked to join. The rapid progress of the NJCODC is in great part due to the help of the "Skin Diver" magazine and the untiring and unselfish efforts of Fred Beisel, Council Chairman.

A design for the Council insignia has been accepted by the membership and the art work is now in the final stages of production.

At this same meeting the Safety Committee is to present its suggestions for a safety pamphlet which is to be endorsed by the Council. The pamphlet will in no way be an imitation of existing safety manuals nor try to cover the amount of material in them. It is to contain concise rules for the safe behavior of all divers in general and New Jersey divers in particular. They will be distributed to all dealers selling underwater equipment. A dealer will be asked to include one with every purchase of underwater equipment. Aside from guiding novice divers along a safe path, the pamphlet will serve notice to the public that there is in existence an organized group interested in the welfare of all persons participating in the sport.

Although spearfishing is done by a great many people in the state it is carried out under an annoying atmosphere of tension for many New Jersey shore areas do not allow skin diving, no less spearfishing. Some towns have passed laws that indirectly curtails diving such as the one passed in Deal, New Jersey.



Michigan Council Directors gather around Dimitri Rebikoff for informal discussion.

## MICHIGAN SKIN DIVING COUNCIL

By FRED SHAFT

Aquatic activities as far as the Council are concerned ended with our last spearfishing contest in August, but Council officers and members have been hard at work planning and arranging activities of interest for the future.

Recently 600 members and friends were visited by the famed adventurer and photographer Dimitri Rebikoff who lectured and showed his film "The Secrets of the Underwater World" Series 2 here in Detroit. The audience laughed at his fine sense of humor and awed at the beauty and color captured by his camera beneath the Red Sea.

Dimitri arrived in Detroit Saturday afternoon November 24, and obliged Council officers by having dinner and spending the evening at the home of President Richard Metzler. After the

This ordinance prohibits any person from swimming off an unprotected beach under penalty of law. It means that at the termination of the regular bathing season a skin diver cannot use the beach as a base of operations simply because there is no lifeguard on duty. He is therefore deprived of many months of good fishing.

Visiting towns and shore resorts all along the coast and talking to local residents and officials, one gets the impression that skin divers are merely being temporarily tolerated. Of course the tolerating is mostly being done by the commercial and sport fishermen and all relevant businesses and industries. How generous can one get? Through the efforts of the NJCODC and the state A.A.U., New Jersey might have its first official spearfishing eliminations in 1957. »

excellent meal prepared by Doris Metzler, Mr. Rebikoff carried the conversation far into the evening telling us of his many adventures and trying to answer the multitude of questions resulting from the conversation.

It takes only a few minutes to realize what a well educated and fine gentleman Mr. Rebikoff is. In his company the evening passed all too quickly and was without a doubt one of the most interesting and informative evenings these officers have spent in a very long time. Sunday you can be sure was a full day for Mr. Rebikoff, for after the lecture there were many people with many questions and after the last had left Dimitri said he felt as though he had given two lectures instead of one. Dimitri spent Sunday evening with Jean and Jerry White of Dexter, Michigan, talking about . . . Skin Diving naturally.

The Michigan Skin Diving Council is fast becoming popular here in the Water Wonderland. Fifteen Clubs representing some 300 members now boast an active membership in the Council. Being in existence less than a year we have promoted two spearfishing contests, a banquet and the Rebikoff lecture all of which were tremendously successful events. Another spearfishing contest is being planned and with cooperation from the conservation department there is hope that it will be held in Higgins Lake, one of the clearest and most productive lakes in the State.

With these things in mind it is important that everyone interested in the Council and its future should attend the annual election and business meeting February 24, 1957. The meeting will be held in Room 101 Union Building at the State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Time 1:30 p.m. The Michigan Skin Diving Council would like to extend its best wishes for a safe and good diving season to everyone in the new year of 1957. »



Record 104 pound Dagnava fish speared by Marcel Isy-Schwartz in the Fijis.

#### BOOK REVIEW

### LA ROUTE DE CORAIL

By Marcel Isy-Schwartz

Editions Pierre Horay,

Paris, France

Review by Gustav Dalla Valle

Among the quantity of books that have been written these days on the subject of the underwater world, it is a great pleasure to find the latest book written by Marcel Isy-Schwartz. Perhaps one does not learn about ichthyological extravaganzas, the laws of decompression, or the history of underwater paraphernalia, A.D. or B.C., but one will spend a few delightful hours accompanying Marcel on his latest expedition to the South Seas. His sense of humor and prose is refreshing and highly entertaining.

After having explored the Brazilian and Caribbean waters, admirably described in his first book, "Hunting Big Fish," in which expedition I had the great pleasure of participating, Marcel and I with photographer Philip Nash, started making plans for the next expedition, which was to have taken us to the Gilbert Islands. Circumstances prevented us from going to the Gilberts, the only transportation being a native scow which made the trip infrequently and without schedule, but Marcel decided to make a tour of the South Seas anyway. The only chance I had to dive in the Pacific with Marcel was when he and his wife stopped off here in California on their way through.

"La Route de Corail," The Coral Route, takes the reader 16,000 kilometers around the Fiji Islands, Samoa, Tonga, New Caledonia, and Tahiti. In

the Fijis Marcel was received by King Ratumara, who permitted him to film their fantastic secret dances. There he also caught the largest Dagnava fish on record, 104 pounds. The most amusing adventures Marcel relates occurred on the native boats on which he traveled from island to island. These boats have a distinctive characteristic of an almost unbearable stench of the fermenting coconuts.

Marcel's description of the reefs of New Caledonia is the most pictorial elegy of underwater life that I have read. But the highlight of this narrative is his account, like nothing you have read before, of a game that the natives play with sharks in Tahiti.

Before his trip to the South Pacific Marcel had seen many sharks, but never believed that there was any danger from them to persons diving with reasonable caution. But in the South Pacific it was dramatically proven to him that there at least, sharks are dangerous without provocation.

La Route de Corail took Marcel Isy-Schwartz to the position of president of the Club des Chasseurs et Explorateurs Sous-marins, the original club and which includes the greatest names in France in the underwater field. The results of his expeditions are not only his books but the extremely successful lecture tours he makes throughout the French-speaking countries, during which he shows the magnificent films he has taken during his trips. Part of his films are being incorporated in a full-length film, "Paradis Terrestre," which will eventually be shown here in the States.

"La Route de Corail" will soon be translated to English, and I am sure that American skin divers will enjoy reading this book as much as I have. »

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# CLUB NEWS



Page 46 through 53

CLUB REPORTS are submitted bi-monthly by club publicity representative, one typewritten page, double spaced, 100 words per report. NEW CLUBS should file their official name and address with "Skin Diver," they will then receive a schedule of the months their report will be published in this section of the magazine and be placed on the Club Roster. A sample constitution and by-laws furnished upon request.

SKIN DIVER is collecting club emblems or patches from underwater organizations around the country, please send yours soon if we have not received it already. We would also like to receive a marine specimen, stuffed, dried, painted, shells, etc., from each club. These specimens will be placed on display in our office.

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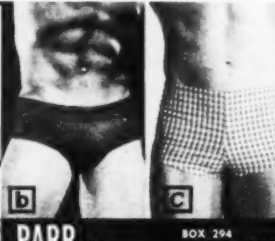
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Scotland . . .

## DUNDEE SUB-AQUA CLUB

By Walter C. Deas

Water Temp., average 43°

Water Condition, poor except on the west coast

Air Temp., average 53°

Visit paid to Ullapool (west coast) by A. Doyle, B. Hall and myself where we all dived on a sunken drifter and had a most uncomfortable time due to the weather which consisted of nothing but solid rain. Underwater photos were taken by your truly using a camera housing which was kindly given by Richard Ferg of New York. Thanks Dick.

A visit was paid to a nearby lake where we opened a small steel gate in the wall of a dam. Roger Bruce found it in his first dive in very dirty water.

Opening of our new club rooms will be an event of the coming month. Also a meeting with the Scottish Council of Physical Recreation to see if a council can be formed in Scotland to promote and help all Scottish clubs.

We will be glad to hear from any clubs or divers who would like to write. ➤

Lakewood, Calif. . . .

## SEA HAWKS

By Ed Holbert

The past two months have found the Sea Hawks "bug happy" with the Federal breakwater our horn-a-plenty. Biggest bug to date being a ten pounder with several 6 and 7 pounders in the game sack. Many are the tales of the one that got away.

Two of our more fortunate members made a trip to Mexico and really had a ball. Cabezone, sheephead, and bass being speared in abundance. Prexy Frank Holbert talks of sheephead by the droves. Emile Castonguay shafted a neat sixteen pound female sheephead to take top honors for the day.

Lobsters and Mexico shall be on the agenda for the next couple of months. ➤

Salt Lake City, Utah . . .

## SALT LAKE SKIN DIVING CLUB

By James M. Parks

The Salt Lake Skin Diving Club came into existence when each of the twelve charter members found he wasn't the only diver in Utah. Since May of 1956 we have been busy writing by-laws and organizational rules and incorporating. At the end of just one diving season we feel we have a well organized and functioning club. We now have 22 active members, most of whom have complete Scuba equipment and cold water gear for our cold lakes.

Our first president, Walt Gehrke, has moved to La Mesa, Calif. J. Gordon Hansen now holds the office.

Our immediate objectives include acquiring a high output compressor for club use. We would also like to affiliate with some California clubs so that members on diving trips could dive with someone familiar with the area.

We've had two official club outings at Bear Lake (our main diving grounds). The August 26 outing received a two page write up in the Salt Lake Tribune. Almost every weekend there are many of the club's divers at the lake. We have been in most of the lakes from southern Utah to Idaho. Diver Jim Gilbert and myself answered an emergency call to repair flood gates in an Elco, Nev., reservoir for rancher Mac Hansel. Fred Diger and his wife had an interesting experience diving in the Great Salt Lake. He reported "six weight belts to take me under . . . ears popped at four feet . . . water in eyes, thought I was blind . . . almost strangled . . . tasted salt for a week."

We've all had occasion to search for lost outboards and fishing gear. As yet we've had no rescue work.

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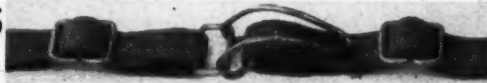
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## Great Match, New Jersey . . . NEW JERSEY SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Barbara Kidder

There have not been many dives made by our members in the past month. Not too many have full suits and the water is darn cold this time of the year without one.

A dinner and dance is being planned by our program committee around February. We are trying to get the wives and girl friends of our members interested in the club and our activities. We think this might be a good way for everyone to get to know each other. Our December meeting consisted mostly of nominating new officers for next year.

Also at our last meeting we had a movie presented by the U.S. Divers Corporation. We all enjoyed it and hope that we will see many more like it.

Coming month's activities: Election of president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer. We are planning to have the club incorporated and will proceed with the necessary arrangements after the election of new officers.

I would like to take the opportunity to say that I have been trying to contact the Undersea Explorers club in Astoria, New York, but with no luck. What is your address? (28-36 42nd St., Long Island City 3, New York.)

## Lexington, Kentucky . . . "MERMEN OF KENTUCKY"

By Estill Lyons

One of our members recently acquired two 70 C.F. non-buoyant air tanks. If these tanks were used in salt water, the additional buoyancy of a person in such water would have compensated for the additional weight of the tanks, and they would have proven satisfactory.

This diver however, did not intend to use them in salt water, nor did he have a diving suit that would give him additional buoyancy.

We solved his problem by first separating the two tanks and changing the harness into a single tank unit. We obtained from Army surplus a 22 C.F. very buoyant tank. We sealed the small tank at atmosphere pressure, and attached it to the top of the heavy tank by encircling the two tanks with a metal band, drawn together with a wing nut and bolt.

The additional buoyancy of the small tank overcame the weight problem, the resistance it offered to the water was very slight. It could be removed quickly, and proved very satisfactory for this diver and also to small children.

## Long Beach, Calif. . . . LONG BEACH DOUGLAS TRIDENTS

By Howard Patton

A business meeting was held December 16th at the Douglas Recreation Building. Order of business included the discussion of the Trident Club Annual Awards Dinner, the establishment of a Junior Club and the installation of two new members.

The Trident Club are proud to announce the enrollment of two new members. Del Wren, formerly of the Kingfishers Club and Bob Bonebreak, having completed the requirements of membership, became members at this December 16th meeting. Both men are enthusiastic all year round skin divers. In addition, Del Wren is widely known as a top competitor in Pacific Coast tournaments. He also has the nucleus of a fine Junior Club. His team, the Junior Kingfishers, consisting of Bob Dick, Jim Breckinridge, and Hugh Winstett, won third place in the Pacific Coast Junior Underwater Spearfishing Championships last summer.

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

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Seattle, Wash. . . .

## NORWEST SKIN DIVING CLUB

By Anthony Nathe

The Pacific Northwest was again called out with all spear-guns available throughout the many clubs to participate in the Pacific-Northwest Spearfishing Championship, which was directed and controlled by the "Pile Divers" of Port Townsend, Wash. The meet was held in the city of Port Townsend, on November 4, 1956. Our club received a trophy for second place, a special trophy was presented to the winner with the heaviest fish speared. The meet was refreshed with free coffee and clam-chowder which was furnished by the Pile Divers. The meet was very well planned and carried out.

Our club at the present time is directing a series of night diving, using underwater flashlights to study reactions of our members underwater at night. A helpful training to the individual diver to better himself and to adjust himself to any type of diving that he might be called upon, in case of emergency. Divers are directed in pairs with one flashlight per diver.

On November 18, 1956, eleven members of our club donated their time to the Coast Guard and USAF to help search for a Jet Trainer: Plane which crash landed in Puget Sound. ➤

Compton, California . . .

## SEA ANGELS

By John C. Mills

The Sea Angels, their wives and lady friends, spent a very enjoyable evening at "The Steak House," for their Second Annual Dinner-Dance, in Maywood, California.

Trophies were presented to Dave Wellander for largest poundage at a family outing earlier in the year. Charles Stewart was presented with our club's perpetual trophy for the second quarter in succession.

Frank Cruze was presented with an inscribed gavel, for distinguished service as a diver and teacher of club activities, as the president of the preceding year.

The club wishes to commend the Lynwood Natatorium for its new skin divers program, every Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Welcome to all novice and experienced divers, we will help you get started. ➤

Mishawaka, Indiana . . .

## SUB SURFACE SIRS

By Bob Sullivan

It was a beautiful September day for diving, the air temperature was about 68° and the water was cold, the sun was bright making the visibility fair, for a lake, about four to six feet.

It was about noon when we left the pier. Three of the club members were already in the water and half way out in the lake. We made fast our homemade underwater sled to a Niles Craft 16 Ft. boat with a 25 h.p. Johnson, and went out to meet the club members that were already in the water.

When we reached them one of the members stayed in the water to ride the sled while the other two climbed into the boat. We started exploring the lake and in approximately ten minutes the sled came to the surface but no diver. We circled back to where the bubbles were rising and waited. In a few minutes Gene came to the surface, "I've tied onto a boat," he said. After more lines had been attached and after many minutes of diving and pulling with the boat and motor the lake bottom released its clutches on the hull and another dead and forgotten boat came to the surface. ➤

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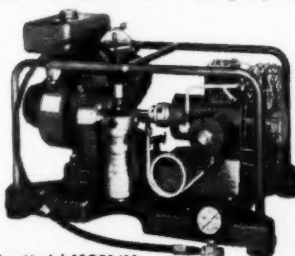
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SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

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St. Petersburg, Florida . . .

## CORAL CAVE MEN OF TREASURE ISLAND

By Preston Brock

During the coming year many divers will be coming to dive in our tropical waters. Anyone who plans to come down to Florida and dive in the St. Petersburg-Tampa area is invited to write us a letter telling us their plans here so that we may be of service by giving advice as to areas, equipment, air stations, etc.

Notice: Would every diver in the St. Petersburg area who reads this announcement please contact us at the address given below, telling us his or her name, address, phone number, age, and club affiliations if any. We are conducting a survey to find out the number of divers in this area and where they are so that we may be able to fix up a visiting diver with a buddy if we ourselves cannot go diving with him or her. Would any diver reading this please tell a diver friend about it who has not read it. Our address is: The Coral Cave Men of Treasure Island, c/o John Stephan, 9901 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg 6, Florida. Our phone number is 21-0084, ask for John Stephan. ➤

Wayne, Michigan . . .

## WAYNE AQUA-MEN

By Jess Maxwell

The Wayne Aqua-Men, one of the largest skin diving clubs in Michigan, is now under the sponsorship of the YMCA. It was voted for the incorporation at a recent meeting of the club. Aqua-Men membership now totals over 30 paid, with usually ten or twelve visitors at each meeting; almost all coming from Detroit, Dearborn, Wayne, Lincoln Park, Wyandotte, Plymouth, Garden City, Inkster, and Ypsilanti.

The Wayne Aqua-Men now meet every Wednesday at the Wayne Recreation Building, 3355 Wayne Road, Wayne, at 7:00. Right after the meeting, the club heads for the Greenfield Village pool in Dearborn for an hour of swimming, also each Wednesday.

A Great Lakes salvage expedition is now being planned by the club. Several ships are under study by members for possible salvaging. Two members in the club now have boats which the club will probably use for the operations this summer. Another member of the club has an airplane which will be used to help locate the ships.

All communications to the Aqua-Men should be addressed to The Wayne Star, 3015 Sophia Street, Wayne, Michigan. ➤

Long Beach, Calif. . . .

## DOUGLAS TRIDENTS

By Nelson Holtzclaw

New club officers for the 1957 season were elected on November of last year at a meeting held at the Douglas Rod and Gun club. The Tridentes climaxed the week with a successful dive at South Laguna. On December 9, 1956, the Tridentes and the Long Beach Neptunes were honored at the world famous Moulin Rouge in Hollywood. Many members attended the presentation to give their congratulations to the honored members. The show was climaxed with a presentation of "Athlete of the Year" which was awarded to Howard Patton for his outstanding exploits during the year. At a later meeting the Tridentes accepted two new members which brings the total membership to 27. Plans were also discussed for a club award presentation to be held at the Hawaiian Room on January 12, 1957. A film of the National Championships in Rhode Island was shown by Jim Christiansen of the Neptunes. Plans are getting under way for a near future trip to La Paz. ➤

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SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

Seattle, Washington . . .

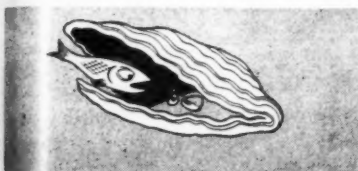
# NOR'WEST DIVERS

By Anthony Nathe

Water Temp: 53°—Water Cond: Heavy Current, Dirty.

On December 9th the members of the club took for the high waters of the Cedar River with rubber rafts and inner-tubes to fight their way down the rampagous river. The men were in the water for two and one half hours, floating 20 miles that will long remain into the minds of the members. Jim Hudson fought for his life through one log jam, while Anthony Nathe was taking water fast under a log jam with Jim. A few minutes passed by, while Nathe was working hard, to get out of the jam, by luck a heavy current forced him onto a big log and washed him out into the swift river. The only loss during the 2 1/2 hours was Nathe's Mask. Everyone enjoyed the trip and was willing to go again.

The club has had very good attendance at their weekly meetings, and also at the dinner meetings which are held every second week. The club is only as good as the divers that make it. Keep up the good work men.



Chicago, Illinois . . .

# CHICAGO SUBMARINE EXPLORATION GROUP

By Chuck Napravnik

Now that the diving season has slowed down our members are looking back at the work accomplished during the past summer. Our members have been diving throughout the country and in various parts of the world. Dick Guirine and John Susin went to the Bahama Islands and took some beautiful underwater movies. While in Florida Dick entered the Pensacola spearfishing contest and walked off with a beautiful trophy for third place. Ken Werremeyer went to Mexico and also took some good pictures.

We recently had our annual club party which was given on behalf of Dick Guirine's leaving for the service, with a couple more members soon to follow. That is why the Submariners are looking for new members. Any one interested in diving or joining an active, well organized club is welcome to come to our meetings. For information come to 1641 W. Irving Pk. or call WE. 5-1760.

Congratulations to Dick Arndt, latest member into the club. Also to be congratulated is John Susin for his new baby boy.

Question: Is there any record of a crested oarfish from Florida? Mr. John Roseman, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Answer: One crested oarfish, *Lopholius lacepedei*, was caught in shallow water at the beach near Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida, on January 1, 1950. None of the local fishermen recognized this fish, which is understandable since it was the first record of this genus from the western North Atlantic. —"Sea Secrets."

SKIN DIVER—February, 1957

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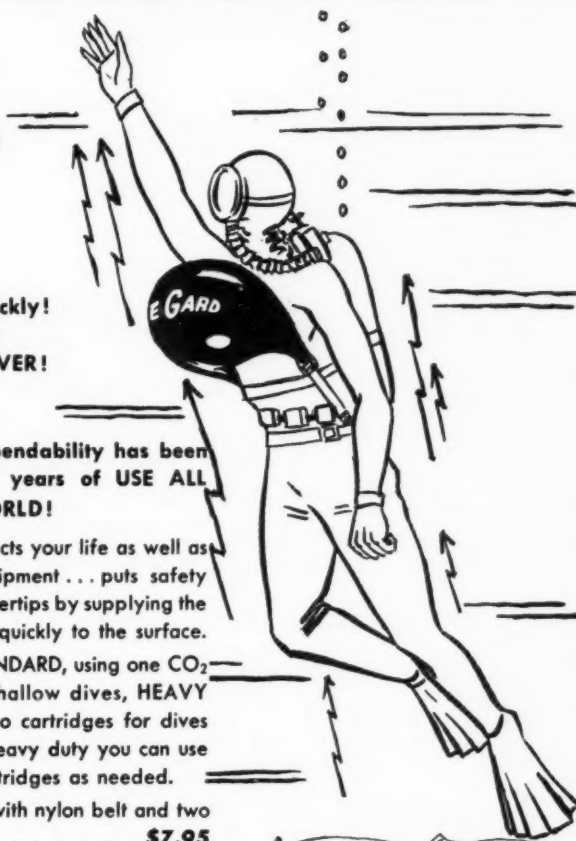
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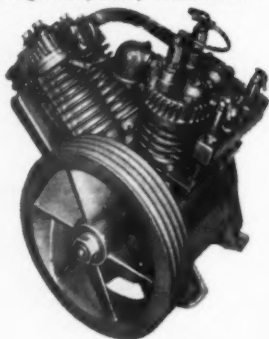
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Stoneham, Mass. . . .

### BAY STATE AQUA CLUB

By Gerald Comeau

We held our first "Annual End of Season Banquet" in October at Chickland Barbeque, Inc. The music was supplied by a "Dixieland jazz" band, and believe me "the joint was jumpin'."

We had only one unpleasant duty to perform at this banquet, and that was saying goodbye to the banquet committee chairman Mike Hegarty who was leaving for active duty with the U.S. Army. As a going away present, the club presented Mike with his club jacket free of charge.

Johnny Sheehan won the G.E. Table Model radio presented by the club as a door prize.

Paul Burke our business representative, was presented with a new skin diver, I mean a new baby boy by his wife Carol who is an avid skin diving fan herself.

Encinitas, Calif. . . .

### ENCINITAS DEPTH DEVILS

By T. H. Cullum

Late summer brought in a large school of broomtailed grouper and several very large black bass to our waters. Needless to say this brought every club member out of hiding and into the water. Anyone who has tried to stop fish in the one to three hundred pound class knows the power that they have. We don't like break-away gear on our spearguns so we go for a little ride until the fish decides to give us a break—if our equipment survives the first shock. We had to fall back on the old stand by—parachute shrouding—as the fish would smash 400-lb. nylon line. To date Terry Gilman's 100-lbs. is the largest that we have been able to land. As there are many more grouper and several black bass that might top 300-lbs. The location is still classified.

South Bend, Indiana . . .

### WATER RAIDERS, INC.

By Elnora Brewer

As this report is sent in to you the Water Raiders can now boast of having a club paper called The Raider. It is published monthly by Harold and Elnora Brewer.

In the last couple of sessions at the Natatorium Pool the following members have passed the first stage of the Proficiency Course: Keith Sipress, Carl Fisher, Jim Johnson, Davis Craven and Phil Warner. To them go our congratulations!

Also during these pool sessions we have been having games and contests. Ken Riddle and Ed Syson took first place in the Dime Throw. Another contest that will be staged in a future session will be picking up one pound lead weights in a minimum of eight foot of water and the one with the most weights takes first prize and so forth. The weights are spaced out in a line of at least forty feet long. It's not only fun to see who can bring up the most weights but also good practice!

Several more of our members have bought coldwater suits this fall so we are pretty well equipped for the cold weather! Some of the members plan to do some diving through the ice this winter.

Question: What do flying fish eat?  
Mr. A. G. Simpson, Clearwater, Florida.

Answer: Apparently they feed entirely on planktonic organisms, mostly copepods. The planktonic copepods are tiny shrimp-like animals which are carried about by the water currents.

Examination of flying fish stomachs showed that they contained nothing but a pinkish paste of such organisms that showed many crustacean elements—"Sea Secrets."

Newport Harbor, Calif. . . .

### SUB-MARINERS

By Alan White

Sub-Mariners Bill Silze and Bob Clark represented the Council of Diving Clubs at recent water pollution hearings before the City Council of Laguna Beach. Untreated sewage released at the presently proposed distance is very likely to cause occasional water pollution in the waters off Laguna. With a growing population, California diving clubs must become alive to the problems of sewage disposal and water pollution. It is something which not only effects our sport but also the health of our children who play in the surf while we are out fishing. We must participate actively in the Council of Diving Clubs and in the Ocean Fish Protective Association, the established means of licking this threat to our sport and to our health.

It's been a very active winter for the Sub-Mariners, with beach meets, boat trips, and a Thanksgiving Day weekend in Mexico. The lobster diving has been especially good, with several large bulls between 10 and 16 pounds.

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San Francisco, Calif. . . .

## SAN FRANCISCO DIVING CLUB

By Bill Lathlean

Our group assembled at Mission Beach near Carmel for a nice dive on our last trip out. The day got off to a bad start with the near drowning of a diver from another club. Fortunately a bit of quick thinking on the part of two other divers in a rubber boat saved the day. Immediately after removing him from the water and into the boat they began applying artificial respiration. This prompt attention in the boat was the factor responsible for saving the diver's life. After this incident we were rather reluctant to get into the water, but when we did it was found to be exceptionally calm and clear. Many of us easily got our limits in abs. The water was full of nice fish and several were taken, the largest a nine pound Cabezone.

A new member was added to the club logs at the last meeting. Ed Schultz has done some diving in Florida and should prove to be an asset to the club. We have found ourselves in need of a few new members. Any interested diver 21 years of age or over is invited to attend our meeting held at 6:00 P.M. on the last Wednesday of each month at 1801 Vicente St., San Francisco or he may call OV 1-3191 between 7 and 8:30 P.M. on any week night. ➤

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS . . .

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SKIN DIVER Magazine

Box 128 Lynwood, California

Long Beach, California . . .

## LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

By Dr. Nelson E. Mathison

Water temperature 55 degrees, visibility 20/50 feet, air temperature 65 degrees, spear-fishing good with California sheephead predominating. John Smith speared a limit of sheephead and bass as well as filled out his limit of lobster at Catalina. Bob Manicki has been doing very well lately and won our beach meet trophy with 58 pounds of fish.

December 9th at the Moulin Rouge in Hollywood our Long Beach Neptune team received the Owen Churchill Perpetual Trophy for winning the National Spearfishing Championship. Lee Jamison took largest single catch award, Bob Manicki speared 24 pounds ten ounces and Jim Christiansen 26 pounds in the dangerous rough water three hour championship contest.

Our new club president is Ted Peterson, del'Giudice, vice president; Vertigan and Garwood, secretary and treasurer. ➤

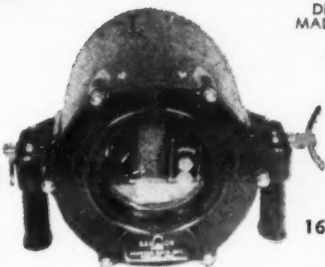
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**FOR SALE**—2 each 3-stage Ingersoll-Rand compressors, 2500 PSI. Never run. \$250 each F.O.B. Fort Walton, Florida. Also Sampson underwater movie case and B&H 16 mm. camera; cost \$800, sell for \$475. John Mason, Box 545, Fort Walton, Fla.

**FOR SALE**—New DA-EJ Aqua-Lung. Paid \$160. Will sell \$100. Neoprene shirt—\$12; Arbaleta standard—\$12. Burt Malwin J-505 Arlington Towers, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR SALE**—9 ft. plywood boat, 2 1/2 hp. Johnson and 4 ft. boarding ladder. \$150. **WANTED**—back issues of Skin Diver. Ken Walgren, 733 Agate St., Pacific Beach, Calif. HU. 8-8966.

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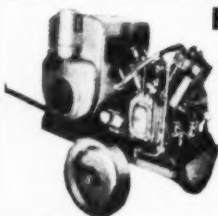
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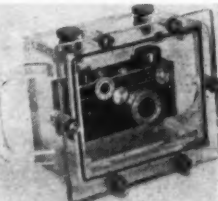
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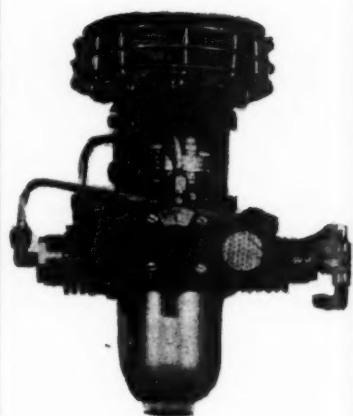
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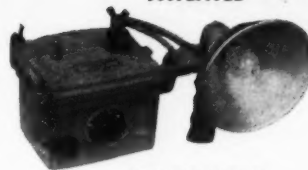
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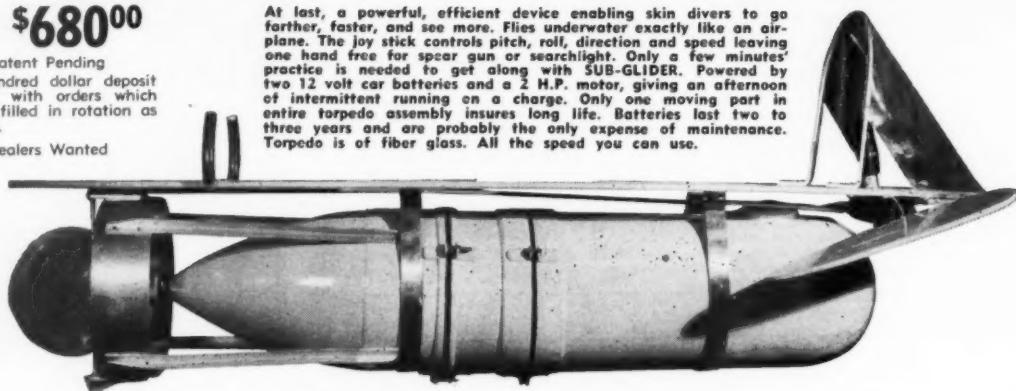
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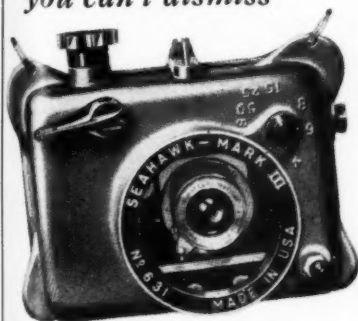
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# BOATING BRIEFS

## Outboard adventures...

Once in awhile a man gets a yen to say to heck with it all and take off on the water in search of adventure.

If you suspect you're that type too, don't feel guilty. Your feelings are shared by many, as the files of the Johnson Motors News Bureau reveal.

Take Capt. Harvey Hecker, for instance. A retired Army engineer, he grew bored with life in the Sandusky, Ohio, Old Soldiers Home and decided to go to Florida. Unbeknown to anyone but a few friends, Hecker acquired an open 15-foot boat and a 10 horsepower outboard motor and set off down the Ohio River for the Mississippi, the Gulf of Florida. By the time he got there the story of his undertaking had been told across the nation and Hecker was a national celebrity.

The captain stayed in Florida a few months, but the new way of life he had discovered was much more exciting than a small town in Florida. So he set off in the same boat again, this time up the Inland Waterway to New York and from there across the Great Lakes to Chicago.

In the Windy City Hecker got a small outboard cabin cruiser which he piloted down the Mississippi, and back across the Gulf to his Florida home—completely circumnavigating the eastern part of the U. S.

The amazing part of this story is that the captain had discovered and began his new exciting way of life at the age of 70.

## More capital needed for marine facilities...

More private capital is needed to invest in boating facilities, says W. H. Jonas, director of sales for Johnson Motors.

Topping Jonas' list of what's needed are small boat launching ramps, docking sites, storage facilities, trailer and car parking areas and marine retail outlets.

"Boating has experienced an amazing

growth in the past several years. The story behind this growth is a change in our national leisure time habits. People are doing instead of watching. Indeed, we believe boating will eventually establish itself as the country's prime leisure time activity."

Evidence of boating's growing popularity is impressive, Jonas says. "Sales of outboard boats and motors have increased steadily since the end of World War II. In 1956 outboard motor sales were up to 584,000 units, a 15 per cent jump over 1955. Boat sales increased to 280,000, 8.5 per cent ahead of 1955."

Jonas said an investor in the marine field can expect a substantial return for his investment.

"We've found that whenever a new marina or launching site is opened to the public, it's jammed to capacity in a very short time. We believe so strongly in the future of marine retail outlets that we are urging our dealers who do not yet have complete marine setups to establish them."

## Gov't report shows boating a safe sport...

Studies indicate that boating is one of the nation's safest participant sports.

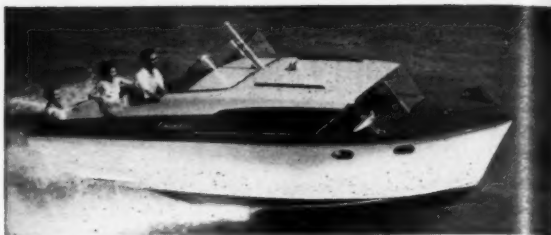
A recent report from the U. S. Health, Education and Welfare Department revealed that small boat fatalities are decreasing steadily. They fell from 1,243 in 1949 to 1,135 in 1954, the latest year surveyed.

At the same time the number of outboard motors in use jumped from 2,643,000 to 3,740,000. Death rate per 1,000 outboard engines in use fell from .47 in 1949 to .30 in 1954.

Boating accidents accounted for a death rate of only seven-tenths of one fatality per 100,000 population in 1954. By contrast the National Safety Council reports a 23.3 death rate for motor vehicle accidents for the same year.



22-ft. Express Cruiser, 2-sleeper. Twin vee berths, fully enclosed toilet room, galley space. Outboards or inboards, with engines to 105 hp; speeds to 29 mph. Prices start at **\$2,330**.



22-ft. Express Cruiser, 4-sleeper. Dinette, optional toilet, galley. Twin vee berths forward. Outboard power, or inboards to 95 hp; speeds to 28 mph. Prices from **\$2,395**.

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15-ft. Runabout. Double cockpit; sports styling. Engine: 60 hp; speed 30 mph; price **\$1,950**. Also available as a 17-footer. Engines to 131 hp, speeds to 38 mph, prices from **\$2,165**.



16-ft. Semi-Enclosed Sports Cruiser sleeps 2, toilet optional. Full-sitting cabin headroom. Outboards from 15 to 70 hp. Price: **\$1,025**.



19-ft. Sports Express, 2-sleeper. Outboards or inboards to 95 hp; speeds to 30 mph. Dinette, galley, toilet optional. Wrap-around cabin and fly-bridge windshields. Prices start at **\$1,870**.

Prices at factory, subject to change without notice.

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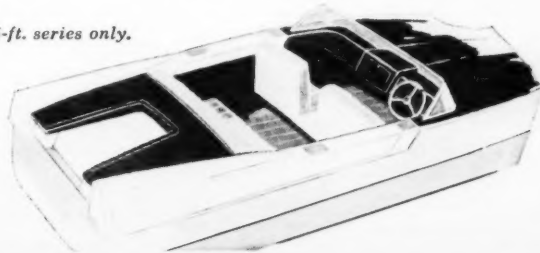
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